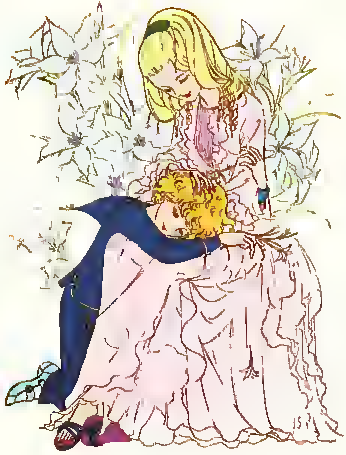


Thoma no Shinzou

The Heart of Thomas by Hagio Moto

Part 4

These scans are from the 1995 single bunko edition

German spelling has been used for the names of characters and places where possible in order to maintain consistency with the manga

Please note that this manga was first published over three tankoubon volumes, and the scanlated pages in this zip comprise the first half of the Volume 2 tankoubon

Scans and cleaning: You-chan
German help: Gabriele
Other stuff: :P

REGARDLESS OF THE VERACITY OF THE RUMORS SPREAD BY THE TROUBLEMAKER ANTE POHE, OSCAR WAS EXPELLED FROM JOHANNES HALL, AND HIS VACATED BED WAS PREPARED FOR ME
THE COOL RAIN NUMBS MY HEAD. YET JULI'S CRUEL REMARKS FILL ME WITH ANXIETY, UNEASE AND FRUSTRATION. EVEN SO, I HAVE SMALL HOPES OF TURNING THIS SITUATION TO MY ADVANTAGE. PERHAPS THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER
BUT I WAS WELL AWARE THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN COMMON

AHH, IT MUST BE UP THESE STAIRS
SO WHERE'S THE DORM SUPERVISOR'S ROOM?
IS THIS IT? THE STEPS END HERE
YES THIS MUST BE THE ROOM
clom clom
wham
YES, COME IN! YOU'RE MY NEW ROOM-MATE
WE'LL BE SHARING THIS ROOM.

I'M AS UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS AS YOU, YOU KNOW! WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS BEING LOCKED UP HERE, I DIDN'T COME WILLINGLY
MAY I ENTER? YOU HEARD THE NEWS FROM OSCAR, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SAYING SUCH THINGS TO ME
CREAK
OH! DOES THIS ROOM HAVE RUNNING HOT WATER?
YOU'RE NOT JUST LIVING UP HERE. YOU'RE TAKING ON THE DUTIES OF DORM HEAD. I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR TASKS PROPERLY.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED UP HERE?
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A PRIVATE ROOM! YOU'VE EVEN GOT AN ENSUITE BATH-ROOM!
CREAK

IS THAT POTASSIUM CYANIDE?
KCN
YES, THANK YOU.
IT DOES. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA? I ONLY HAVE TEA BAGS THOUGH
THAT LABEL WAS OSCAR'S IDEA OF A JOKE. THERE'S REAL SUGAR IN THAT JAR
shff shff
KCN
OSCAR DID LEAVE SOME COGNAC BEHIND— SHALL I POUR THAT FOR YOU INSTEAD?

...OR STAB ME WITH A KNIFE!
NO YOU WON'T, BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR THAT!
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D STRANGLE ME IN MY SLEEP...
YOU'D CHOOSE A METHOD THAT WOULDN'T ATTRACT ANY SUSPICION, RIGHT?
clatter
clink
HEY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO THREATENED TO KILL ME REMEMBER?
WE'RE SHARING THE SAME ROOM, SO SURELY YOU'VE GOT YOUR CHANCE NOW...
DO YOU WISH TO DIE? WHY DON'T YOU COMMIT SUICIDE? THAT WOULD BE EASIER!
...AND KILL ME FIRST, IF YOU WANT.
YOU CAN GO AHEAD
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF THOMAS WERNER!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, NOT RIGHT BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.
IF I COULD, I WOULD'VE DONE THAT LONG AGO.

ANYONE IS CAPABLE OF MURDER.
scrape
YOU HAD THE COMPOSURE OF A PERSON CAPABLE OF MURDER
REALLY? BUT LOOK AT THE MATURE WAY YOU DEALT WITH HERBERT
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT HIM, ALL RIGHT?
clink
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD
YOU WON'T MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN, YOU KNOW.
THAT'LL MAKE THE DICTATORS OUT THERE VERY HAPPY!
ERIC... COULD YOU STOP TALKING TO ME FOR A MOMENT? EVEN THE WAY YOU SPEAK REMINDS ME OF THOMAS
JULI...
IS A HEAD PREFECT ALLOWED TO SPEAK SUCH HERESY, JULIUSMOLE?
HOW CAN YOU DELIVER THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FROM THE PULPIT AT MASS EACH SUNDAY? YOU SEEM SO PIOUS AND DEVOUT!

IF YOU DIDN'T, WHY THEN DOES HE WEIGH SO HEAVILY ON YOUR MIND?
YOU LIKED THOMAS WERNER, DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE YOU LIKED HIM, RIGHT?
WHY BE SO OFFENDED WHEN THOMAS MADE FUN OF YOU WITH HIS PRANK?
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU RE WRONG!
I DON'T LOVE ANYONE!
DON'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE!
JULI ...
JULI... OSCAR SAYS YOU AND I SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH EACH OTHER.

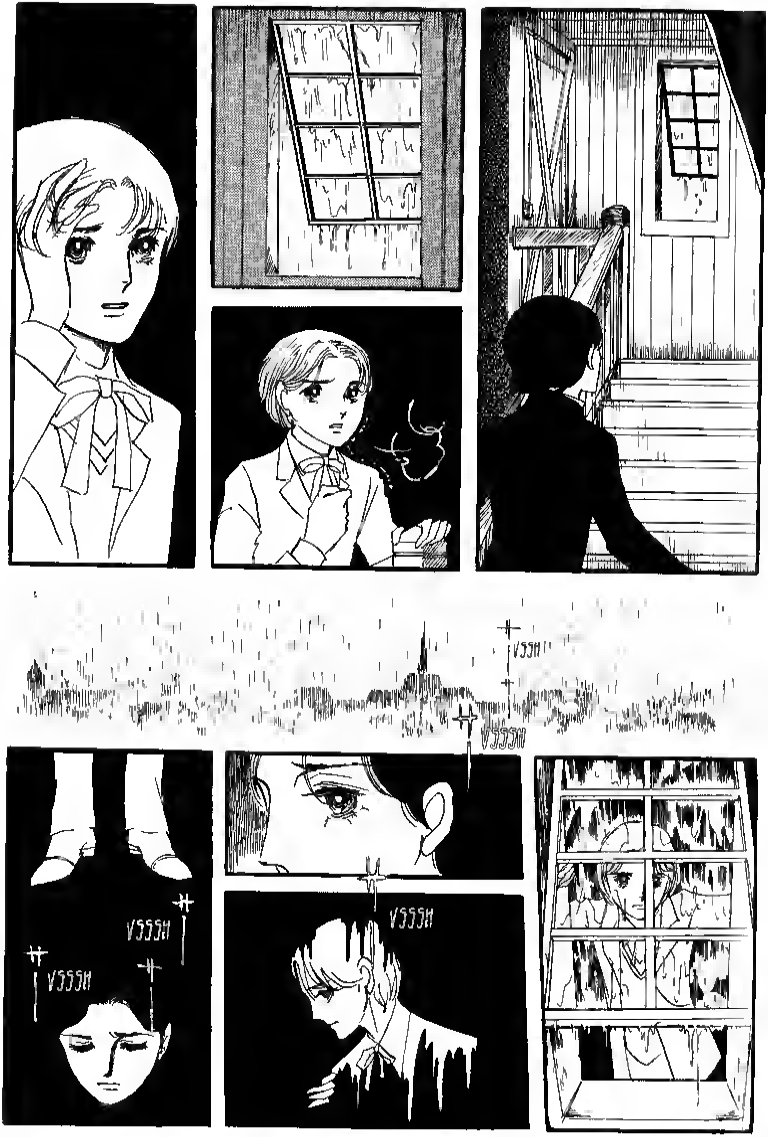
NO, THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO ME
IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COMPANION WITH WHOM YOU CAN OPEN UP YOUR HEART. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT OSCAR SAID TO ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I TREAT EVERYONE AS IMPARTIALLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE S ASKED ME THAT.
I'VE STRUCK UP A GOOD FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL RULES.
EVEN THOSE YOU CONSIDER TO BE CLOSE FRIENDS AND FAVORITES?
YOU LIAR!
THAT'S HOW I LIKE IT.
SO THESE FRIENDS LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
FRIENDSHIP, FAVORITISM, PITY... ALL THOSE TEDIOUS EMOTIONS ...
I DETEST THE IDEA OF GROVELING BEFORE OTHERS JUST SO THEY'LL LIKE ME!

...ARE NOTHING BUT A NUISANCE.
HUH! WELL, NOW THAT YOU'VE TOLD ME WHAT YOU LIKE,
JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN--
I HATE YOU SO MUCH!
I HATE LIARS LIKE YOU THE MOST!

slam
YOU'VE GOT DEFENDERS LIKE LIEB AND ADAM WHO RESPECT YOU SO MUCH THEY GOT CAUGHT UP IN A BRAWL WITH HERBERT OVER YOU!
BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ON AN ACT! HOW CAN YOU DECEIVE EVERYONE LIKE THIS?!
IN PUBLIC YOU'RE AN EXEMPLARY HEAD PREFECT
I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THOMAS'S FUNERAL
BECAUSE HE KEEPS APPEARING BEFORE ME DAY AFTER DAY
AS YOU!
I WOULD'VE BEEN PERFECTLY FINE IF YOU HADN'T COME TO THIS SCHOOL

LOOK, I'M NOT THOMAS WERNER!
AS LONG AS I DIDN'T HAVE TO SET EYES ON YOU—
YOU'RE THE VERY ESSENCE OF THOMAS!
YOU LOVE NO ONE?
IS THAT THE REASON WHY
kachik
slam

thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
thud
IN THE PAST JULI WASN'T LIKE THIS
HE DOES LOVE HIS FRIENDS REALLY - HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB AS HEAD PREFECT
BUT THEN, JULIUS-MOLE
CAN YOU HONESTLY LIVE LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
ALL ALONE?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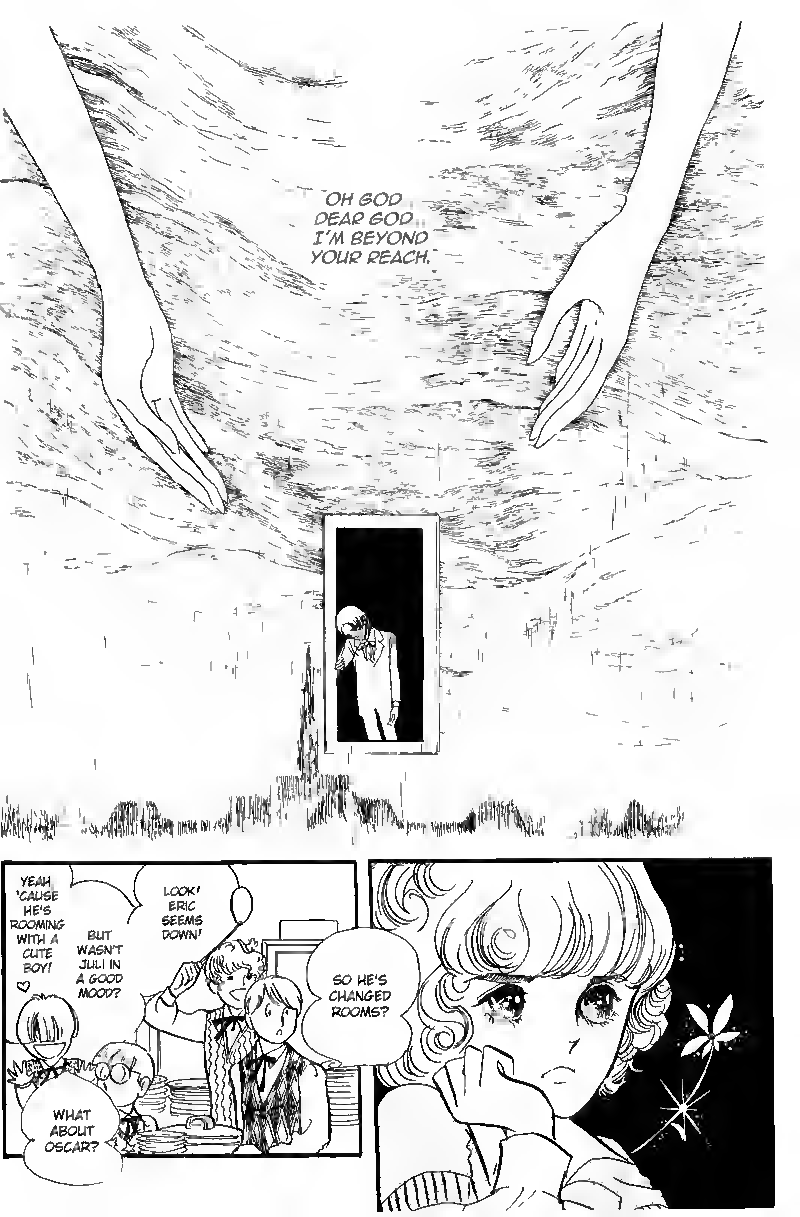
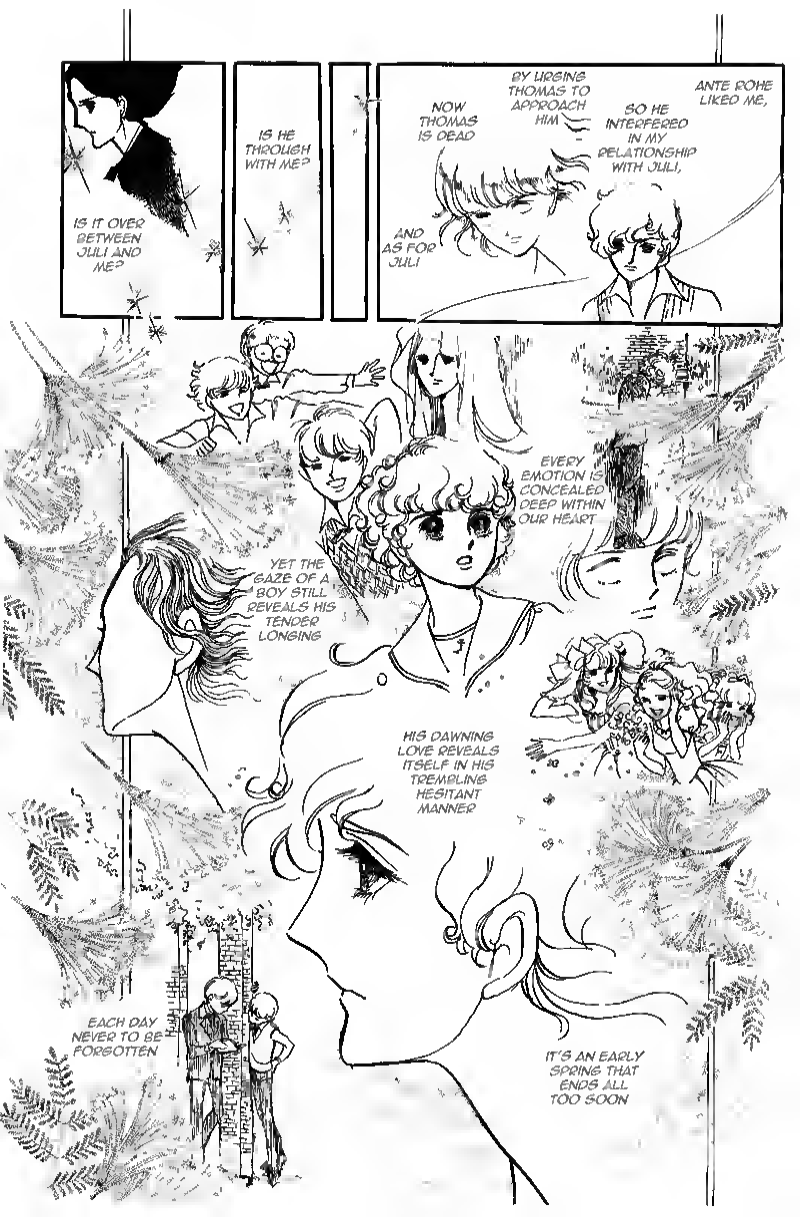

OH GOD
DEAR GOD,
I'M BEYOND
YOUR REACH.
YEAH, 'CAUSE HE'S ROOMING WITH A CUTE BOY!
BUT WASN'T JULI IN A GOOD MOOD?
LOOK! ERIC SEEMS DOWN!
SO HE'S CHANGED ROOMS?
WHAT ABOUT OSCAR?

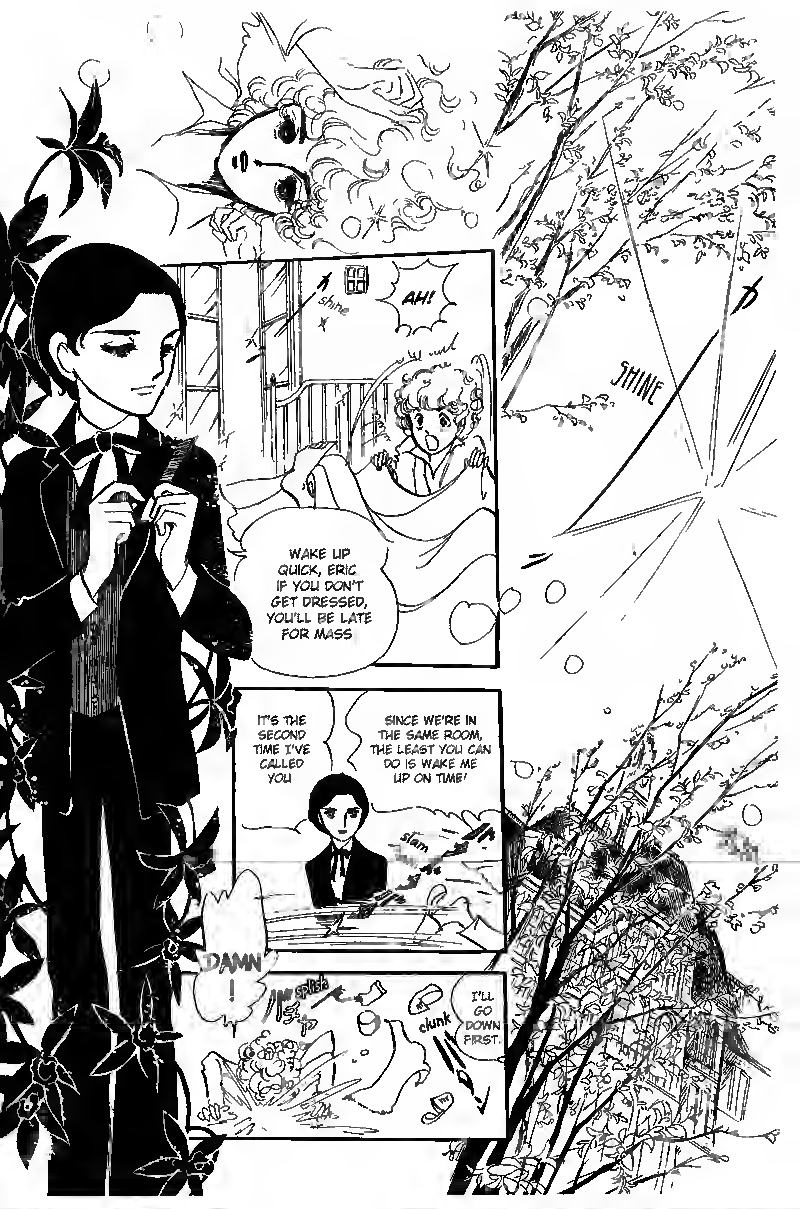
HMPH!
YEAH, JULI WILL BE CALLING ON ERIC TO HELP HIM OUT!
NOTHING JUST THAT IT'S HARD WORK BEING IN CHARGE OF A DORM!
WERE YOU ASKING SOMETHING ABOUT ME?
I WARNED HIM TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT!
WHERE'S THAT TROUBLEMAKER, ANTE ROHE?
OSCAR!
HOW DARE YOU SPREAD THOSE RUMORS!
HOLD IT!
DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK IN THE STUDY ROOM, ANTE?
UH HUH, IT WAS A BREEZE!
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, AREN'T YOU?

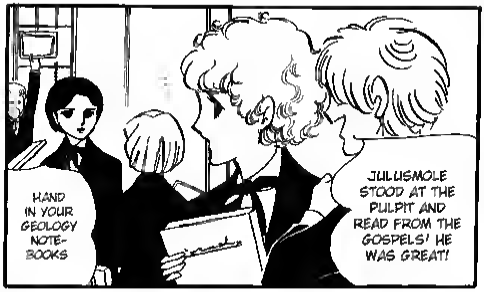
I THINK GIVING YOU A COUPLE OF HARD PUNCHES MIGHT DO WONDERS FOR IMPROVING YOUR CHARACTER!
YOU WOULDN'T BEAT UP A YOUNGER STUDENT FOR FUN, WOULD YOU?
OSCAR— WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
rustle
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? I COULD TELL JULI LIKED ERIC! HE HAD HIS EYES ON ERIC ALL THE TIME!
HUH? KNOW YOUR FEELINGS, YOU LITTLE—
Wah!
FROM THE MOMENT I URGED THOMAS INTO MAKING A MOVE ON JULI, I—
THEY WERE GOING TO PAIR UP SOONER OR LATER!
SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE TWO OF THEM SHARING THE SAME ROOM?
NOT ONCE YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS FOR YOU!
NO, YOU WOULDN'T, OSCAR!
YOU WOULDN'T HIT ME!
OSCAR!
SLAP

I-I DID IT...
BECAUSE I LIKED YOU!
WAS THAT YOUR BET - TO SEE WHICH OF YOU COULD CATCH JULLISMOLE?
SO YOU... PUT THOMAS UP TO IT?
YOU SET UP THIS WHOLE PRANK FROM THE START...
...TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN ME AND JULI!
YOU URGED THOMAS ON!
YOU PLANNED THIS!
NOT A CHANCE HE'S TOO SERIOUS FOR THAT
HE'S SO HANDSOME! I WONDER IF HE'D FALL FOR ME IF I HOUNDED HIM FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT!
BESIDES HE ALWAYS SPENDS HIS TIME WITH OSCAR
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A GO, THOMAS?
COME ON, THOMAS WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO WIN HIM OVER?
BECAUSE I LIKED YOU ALL ALONG! WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE WAY I FEEL?

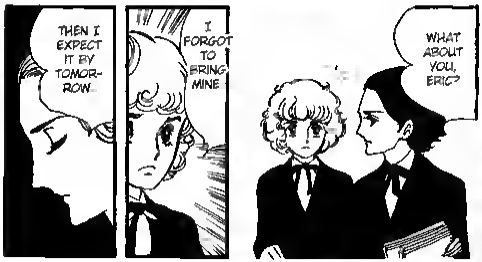
gulp
WOOSH
JULI, JULI, JULI! HE'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT!
LOOK AT HOW MUCH AGONY YOU'VE PUT JULI THROUGH!
JULI CAN DIE FOR ALL I CARE!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT IF YOU JUST COME BACK TO ME, OSCAR!
OSCAR, COME BACK!
COME BACK, OSCAR!
I DON'T MIND IF YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE!
NO!
OSCAR!


IS IT OVER BETWEEN JULI AND ME?
IS HE THROUGH WITH ME?
NOW THOMAS IS DEAD
BY URGING THOMAS TO APPROACH HIM
SO HE INTERFERED IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JULI,
ANTE ROHE LIKED ME,
AND AS FOR JULI
EVERY EMOTION IS CONCEALED DEEP WITHIN OUR HEART
YET THE GAZE OF A BOY STILL REVEALS HIS TENDER LONGING
HIS DAWNING LOVE REVEALS ITSELF IN HIS TREMBLING HESITANT MANNER
EACH DAY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN
IT'S AN EARLY SPRING THAT ENDS ALL TOO SOON

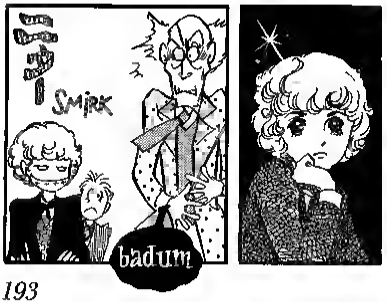

shine
AH!
WAKE UP QUICK, ERIC IF YOU DON'T GET DRESSED, YOU'LL BE LATE FOR MASS
SHINE
IT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE CALLED YOU
SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME ROOM, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS WAKE ME UP ON TIME!
slam
DAMN!
splash
clink
I'LL GO DOWN FIRST.

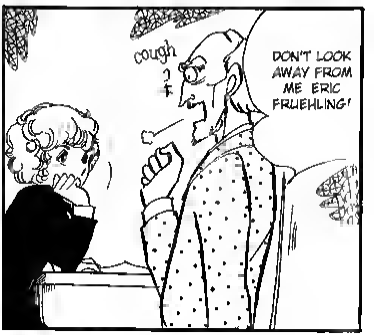

HAND IN YOUR GEOLOGY NOTE-BOOKS
JULLISMOLE STOOD AT THE PULPIT AND READ FROM THE GOSPELS! HE WAS GREAT!

YAWN
WEREN'T YOU AT MASS, ERIC?
I WASHED MY FACE AND WENT BACK TO BED AGAIN

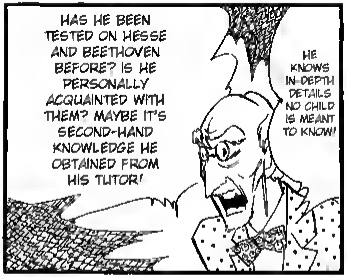

THEN I EXPECT IT BY TOMOR-ROW
I FORGOT TO BRING MINE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ERIC?

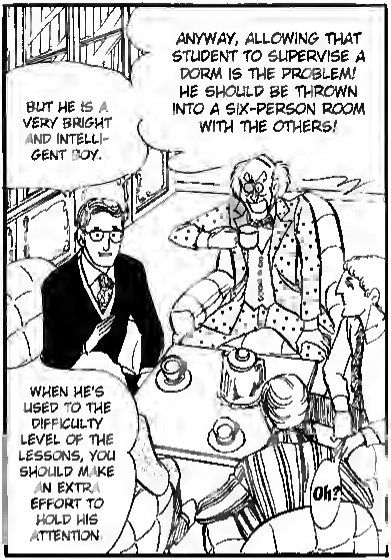
THIS TIME THERE'LL BE A TEST ON THIS WEEK'S CLASSES! IT'LL COVER THE WORKS OF THE GERMAN LITERARY GREAT HERMANN HESSE!
Wah!
WHEN DO I HAVE SPARE TIME TO DO MY HOMEWORK? GEEZ IT'S SO MISERABLE SHARING THE SAME ROOM AS THAT DETESTABLE FELLOW EVERY DAY!

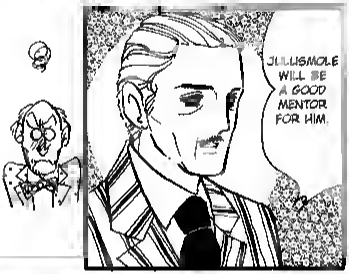

SMIRK
badum


cough
DON'T LOOK AWAY FROM ME ERIC FRUEHLING!

DON'T GET MAD AT ME OVER NOTHING!
WHY ON EARTH DOES HE STARE AT ME LIKE THAT?
IT'S AS IF HE WANTS TO BASH ME TO DEATH!
HERR BUSCH IS SUCH A HARD TASKMASTER!
slam thunk
wham
IS CLASS OVER? CAN WE GO?
STUDENTS THESE DAYS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
"IN HIS YOUTH HE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AFTER WORKING IN A BOOKSHOP FOR THREE DAYS, HE RAN AWAY. HE BECAME A PRODIGAL SON."
"IF HESSE COULDN'T BE A POET, THEN HE DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE AT ALL. HOWEVER, HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS A NOVELIST AND LIVED TO THE RIPE OLD AGE OF EIGHTY-FIVE."
THE CHEEKY BRAT!
I'VE NEVER BEEN CHALLENGED BY A SINGLE PUPIL UNTIL NOW!
I'VE KEPT A CANE IN CLASS FOR FORTY YEARS!
HERE IT IS. ERIC FRUEHLING'S ESSAY ON HESSE
THE NEW BOY IS QUITE A HANDFUL, ISN'T HE?


HAS HE BEEN TESTED ON HESSE AND BEETHOVEN BEFORE? IS HE PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH THEM? MAYBE IT'S SECOND-HAND KNOWLEDGE HE OBTAINED FROM HIS TUTOR!
HE KNOWS IN-DEPTH DETAILS NO CHILD IS MEANT TO KNOW!


ANYWAY, ALLOWING THAT STUDENT TO SUPERVISE A DORM IS THE PROBLEM! HE SHOULD BE THROWN INTO A SIX-PERSON ROOM WITH THE OTHERS!
BUT HE IS A VERY BRIGHT AND INTELLI-GENT BOY.
WHEN HE'S USED TO THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF THE LESSONS, YOU SHOULD MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO HOLD HIS ATTENTION.
Oh?

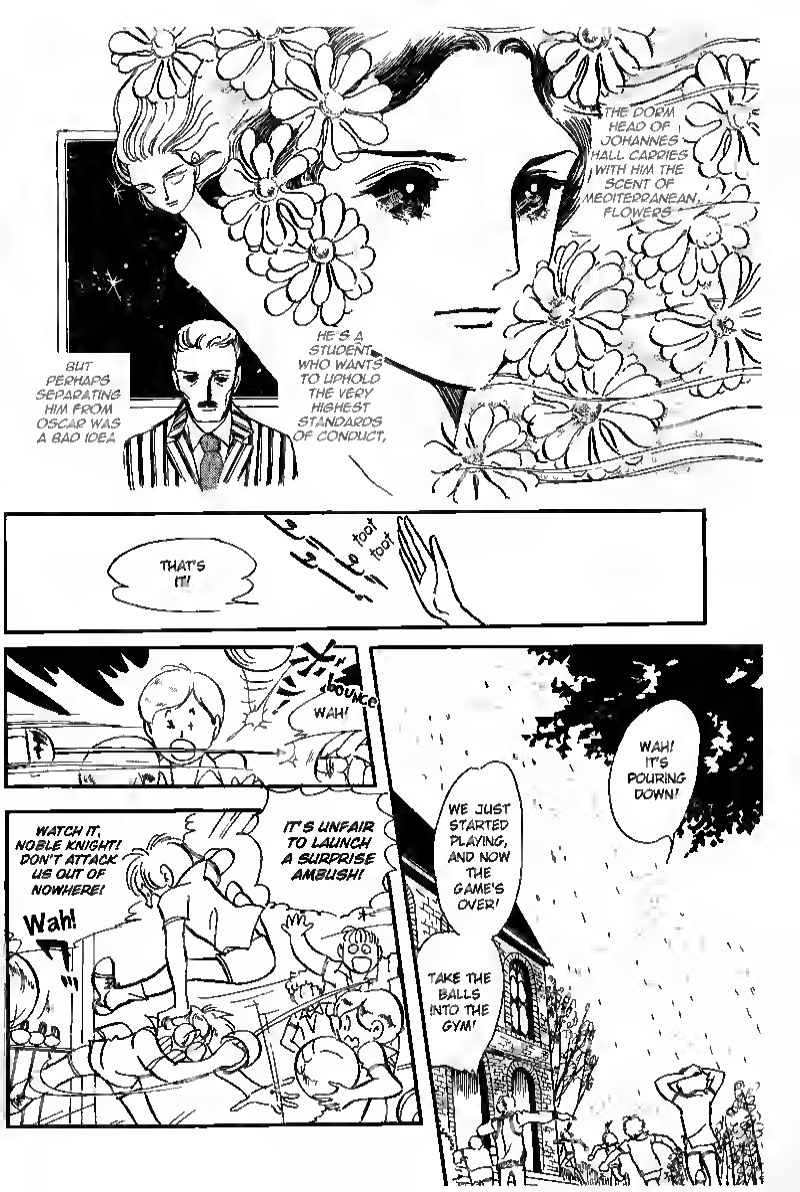

JULLISMOLE WILL BE A GOOD MENTOR FOR HIM.
??

NO, HIS INJURY FROM THAT INCIDENT HAS HEALED.
HAS JULLISMOLE BEEN TO YOUR OFFICE LATELY?

ARTUR?

EVENTUALLY TIME WILL FIX THAT, TOO

BUT HE STILL KEEPS HIS COLLAR TIGHTLY BUTTONED UP


THE DORM HEAD OF JOHANNES HALL CARRIES WITH HIM THE SCENT OF MEDITERRANEAN FLOWERS
HE'S A STUDENT WHO WANTS TO UPHOLD THE VERY HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT,
BUT PERHAPS SEPARATING HIM FROM OSCAR WAS A BAD IDEA
THAT'S IT!
toot toot
BOUNCE
WAH!
WAH! IT'S POURING DOWN!
WE JUST STARTED PLAYING, AND NOW THE GAME'S OVER!
TAKE THE BALLS INTO THE GYM!
WATCH IT, NOBLE KNIGHT! DON'T ATTACK US OUT OF NOWHERE!
IT'S UNFAIR TO LAUNCH A SURPRISE AMBUSH!
Wah!

kick!
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU, FAIR PRINCESS!
THEN FIGHT FOR THE VICTORY TROPHY INSTEAD OF A PRINCESS, BRAVE HERO!
WAH!
CRASH
swish
HAH!
YIKES, ERIC!
clang
clang
clang
NEVER! TO HELL WITH 'TIME OUT' DURING BATTLE!
WAH! TIME OUT! TIME OUT, PRINCESS!

clang
THAT'S NOT THE PROPER STANCE! RIGHT HAND! NOW LEFT! YOUR ELBOW'S ALL WRONG! PULL YOUR FOOT BACK!
MANY FENCERS HAVE BEEN VANQUISHED BY THE PRINCESS!
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
CLUNK
LUNGE
IT'S NO USE! OUR PRINCESS IS FAR TOO STRONG FOR THEM!
clatter
YES! GO JULI!
GO JULI!
FENCE FOR OUR SIDE!
WOW!
WOO HOO!
Hilfe!
HELP!
ARE YOU A STRONG FENCER?

DON'T LOSE THIS TIME, YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOU WANT TO TRY ME?
GO GET HIM, JULI!
FIGHT!
gleam
CRASH
SHOCK
HE'S
clang
Wow!

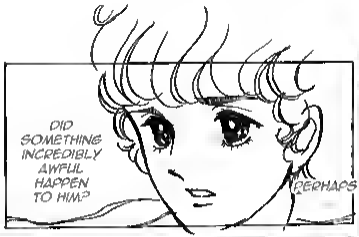
HE'S A MATCH FOR JULI!
WOW!
WOW! LOOK AT THEM!
WHAT A GREAT DUEL!
HE'S
clang
clang
clank
NO WAY!
LOSE TO HIM?
A MATCH FOR JULI!
THE TWO OF THEM.
shudder
I'LL LOSE IF I DON'T FIGHT FOR REAL!
VERY GOOD!
PING
crash
STOP THE DUEL! THE RUBBER CAP ON ERIC'S FOIL HAS FLOWN OFF!

JAB
AHH!
JULI!

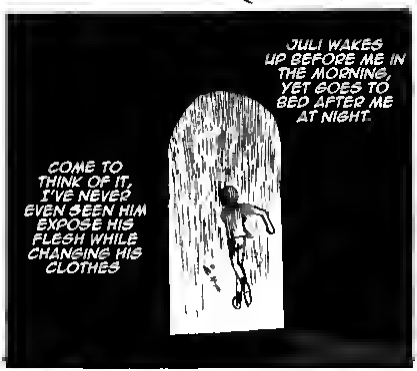
ガチャ!!
CRASH
CLANK
ハシー
SORRY, DID I CUT YOU?
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS! I'LL GO GET CHANGED
WHAT AN UPSET! LE BEBE SCORED A HIT!
WOW!
WOW, JULI LOST! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
JULI!
A WOUND ?
JULII JULII YOUR NECK WAS WOUNDED, WASN'T IT?
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NECK, JULIUSMOLE?
I-IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.

woosh
PUNCH
Wah!
DON'T TELL ME THAT WOUND'S A LOVERITE LEFT BY OSCAR?
HE SAYS IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
WELL! THE HEAD PREFECT'S ALL WORKED UP OVER A SINGLE HIT!
GUESS IT'S JUST A BRUISE
HER-BERT!
SHOW IT TO THEM, JULI!
LET THEM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT!

IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, SO GO AHEAD AND SHOW IT TO THEM! IT'S JUST.. JUST A SCAR LEFT BY AN OLD BURN INJURY!
Oh!
YOU KNEW?
?
AN OLD BURN INJURY?
EXCUSE ME I'LL GO UP TO MY ROOM
AND CHANGE
I


DID SOMETHING INCREDIBLY AWFUL HAPPEN TO HIM?
PERHAPS

YOU'RE RIGHT! JULI WOULD DIE OF SHAME IF HE DID ANYTHING IMPROPER!
MAYBE HE'S IN SHOCK AFTER LOSING TO LE BEIGE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN JULI LIKE THIS!
HERBERT WAS WRONG TO CALL IT A LOVEBITE!
THERE WAS NO REASON TO MAKE A FUSS ABOUT JULI'S SCAR, WAS THERE?


JULI WAKES UP BEFORE ME IN THE MORNING, YET GOES TO BED AFTER ME AT NIGHT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM EXPOSE HIS FLESH WHILE CHANGING HIS CLOTHES

BUT IF HE'S DOING IT EVERY SINGLE DAY
wham
IS THAT JUST A HABIT OF HIS?

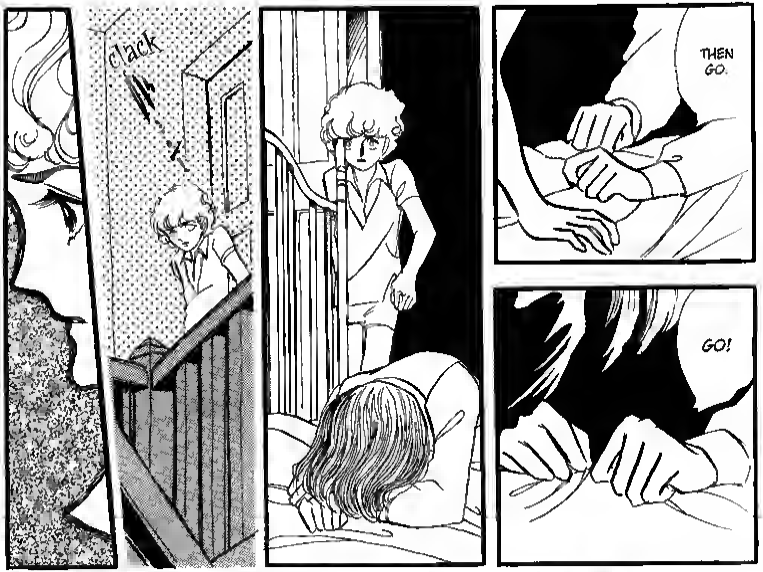
DID HE WORK OUT THE CAUSE OF MY DISCOLORED SKIN FROM A SINGLE GLANCE?
AN OLD BURN INJURY
DID OSCAR KNOW THIS WHEN I LIED ABOUT KNOCKING MYSELF ON A DESK?
OHH
GOD!
GOD! OH GOD!
A PAIR OF SCISSORS! WITH THE SCISSORS
I'LL GOUGE OUT THE ENTIRE SCAR!
clink

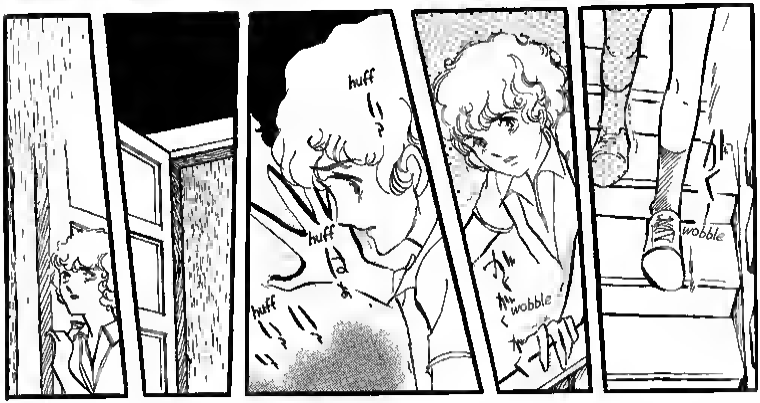
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS IT THE SCAR BELOW YOUR NECK?
rattle
clatter
KYAA!

OH MY GOD!
GOD?
DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?

REALLY?
I LET
NO MATTER HOW DIRE THE CIRCUM-STANCES?
DO YOU BELIEVE HE'LL COME TO YOUR SALVATION
DO YOU ALSO BELIEVE I'LL LOOSEN MY GRIP?
YES, I BELIEVE!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ERIC?
REALLY?
LET ME GO!
CONTRARY TO MY EXPECTATIONS YOU COULD EASILY TURN THE TABLES BY TWISTING THE SCISSORS AROUND AND STABBING ME IN THE THROAT
BUT YOU CAN KILL ME NOW BECAUSE YOUR REFLEXES ARE A BIT QUICKER THAN MINE
S-SO IT...
I'VE CONSIDERED TAKING MY OWN LIFE AT TIMES BUT NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER DESIRED THE DEATH OF ANYONE ELSE
THIS ISN'T A GAME YOU KNOW I'M SIMPLY HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS
I'D NEVER KILL ANYONE!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO TO ME, THEN GO AHEAD AND DO IT. I'M UNARMED AND I WON'T PUT UP A FIGHT!
"FRIEND, DO WHAT YOU CAME FOR."
THAT WAS CHRIST'S WORDS TO JUDAS.
JULI?
JULI!



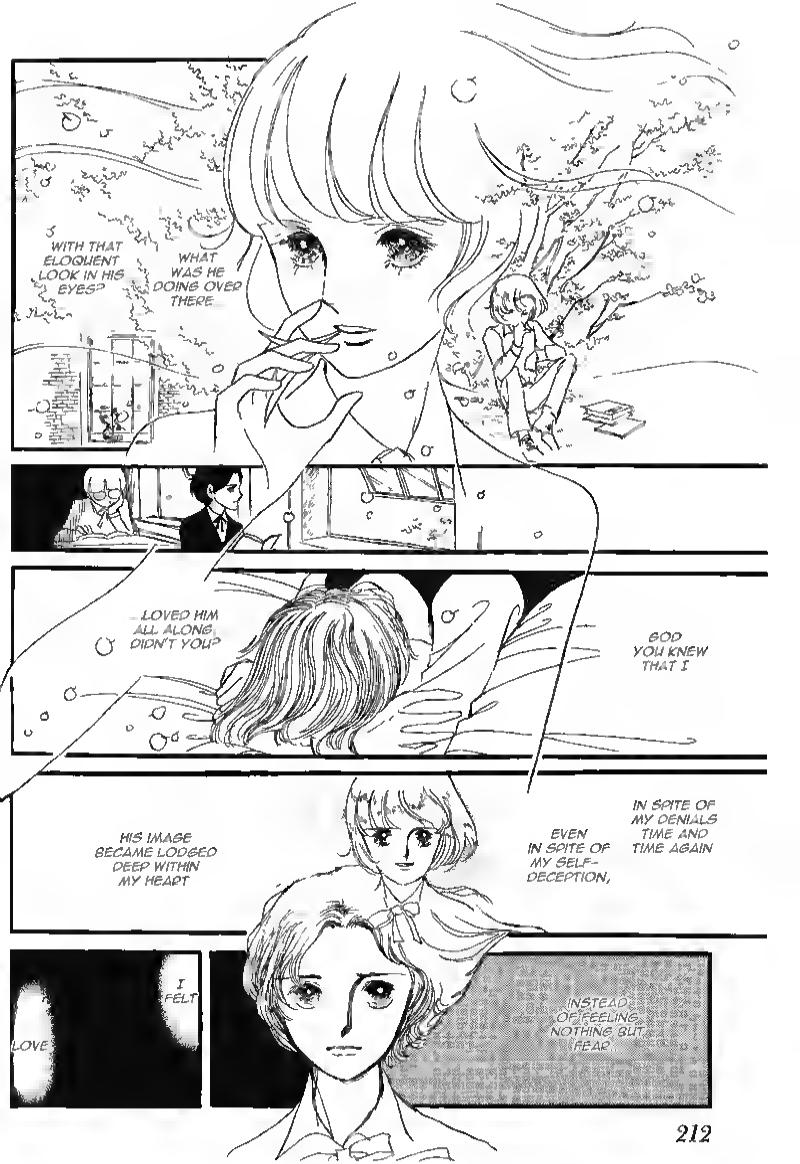


AND THE DAY AFTER THAT

AND THE DAY AFTER

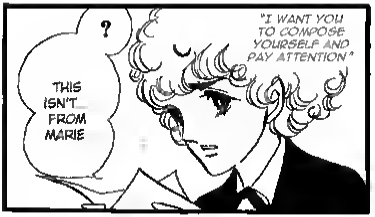
THAT DAY

HE WAS WHISTLING A TUNE USING A BLADE OF GRASS


WITH THAT ELOQUENT LOOK IN HIS EYES?
WHAT WAS HE DOING OVER THERE
...LOVED HIM ALL ALONG, DIDN'T YOU?
GOD YOU KNEW THAT I
HIS IMAGE BECAME LODGED DEEP WITHIN MY HEART
EVEN IN SPITE OF MY SELF-DECEPTION,
IN SPITE OF MY DENIALS TIME AND TIME AGAIN
I FELT
LOVE
INSTEAD OF FEELING, NOTHING BUT FEAR

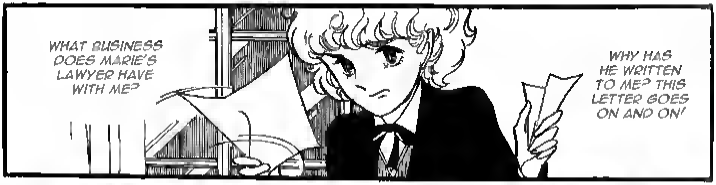
JULI!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT A SNAP TEST TOMORROW!
IS THIS FOR A TEST?
DO I KNOW WHAT?
HEAD PREFECT JULI! DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MEMORIZE THE PERIODIC TABLE BY HEART?
HERR HOMANN IS SO MEAN!
GEEZ, ERIC! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
crash
crack
WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON?
A BROOM! SOMEONE GET A BROOM!
ERIC!
smash
BE CAREFUL, ERIC! HOLD THAT TRAY PROPERLY! TAKE CARE!

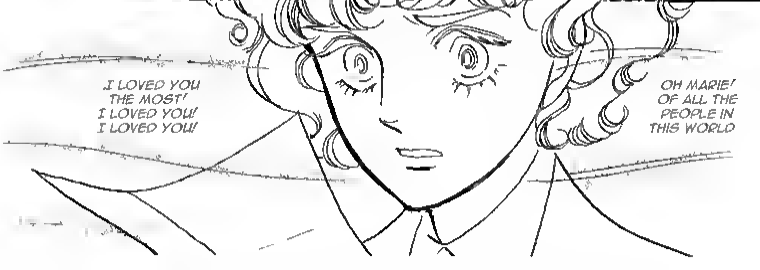
I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T LIVE ANOTHER SECOND NEXT TO THIS FELLOW WITH A SPLIT PERSONALITY!
I'LL GET THEM TO CHANGE MY ROOM...
A LETTER!
I'VE LEFT IT IN YOUR ROOM...
I'LL GO AND KICK OSCAR OUT OF MY OLD BED!
...?
ERIC! A LETTER HAS ARRIVED IN THE MAIL FOR YOU!
ERIC FRUEHLING!
A LETTER IS HERE!
thud
thud
thud
THANK YOU!!
AT LAST! MARIE!
whish

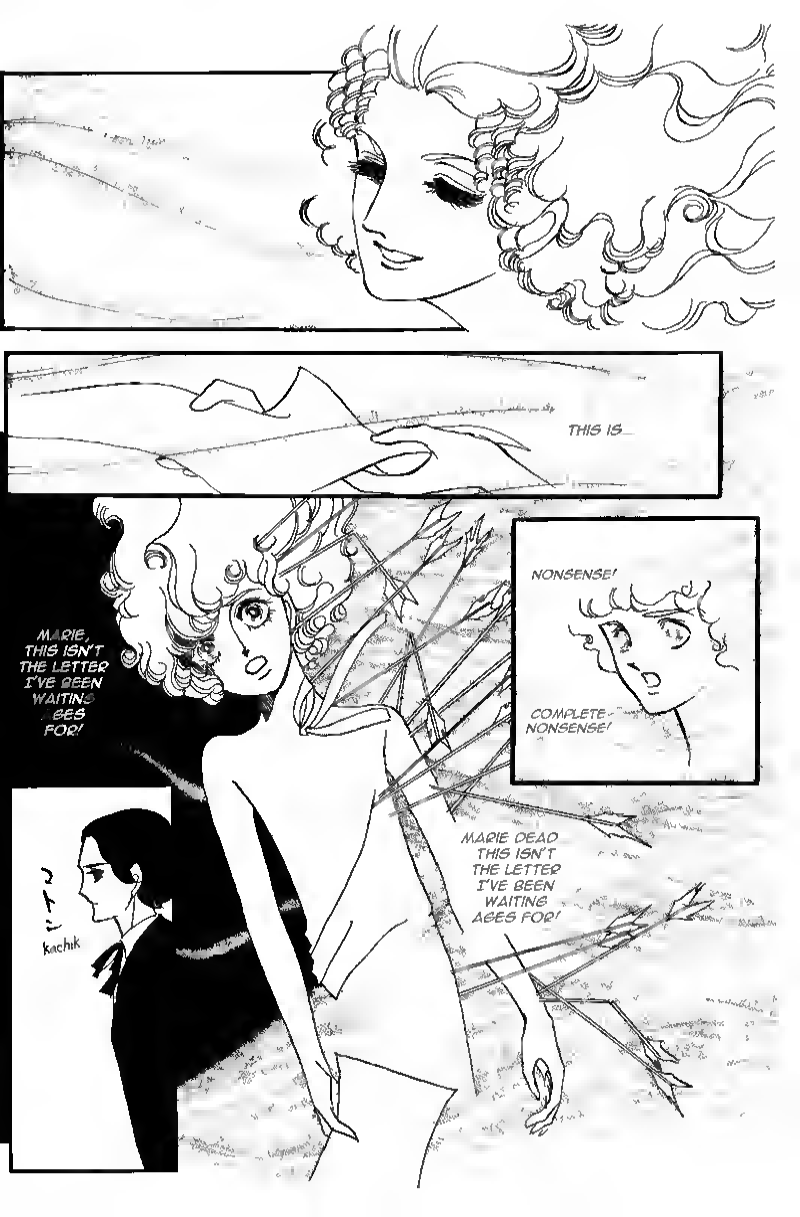


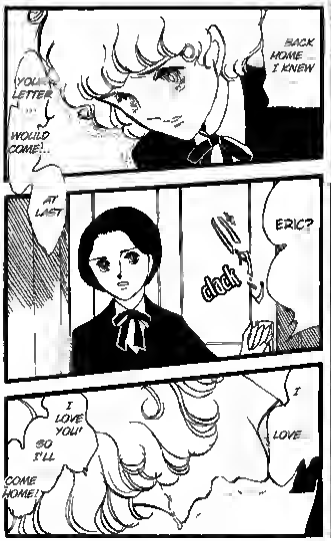
OH MARIE! IS THIS THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR? DO YOU WANT ME BACK? HAVE YOU MISSED ME?

"DEAR ERIC FRUEHLING I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE INFORMED YOU SOONER. BUT IN MY JUDGMENT I HAVE LEFT IT TO THIS POINT IN TIME."

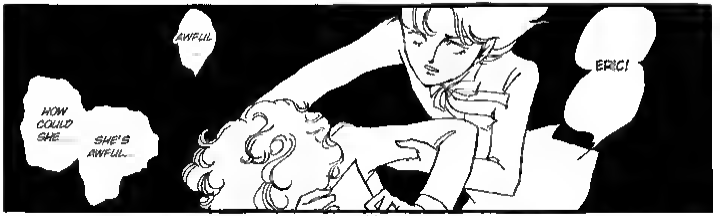


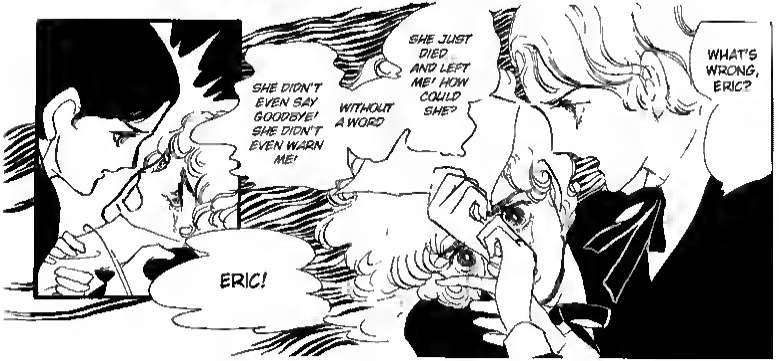



THIS IS...
NONSENSE!
COMPLETE NONSENSE!
MARIE, THIS ISN'T THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR!
MARIE DEAD THIS ISN'T THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR!
カチン
kachik


BACK HOME... I KNEW
YOU'D LETTER ... WOULD COME!..
AT LAST
ERIC?
I LOVE YOU! SO I'LL COME HOME!
I LOVE

I'M COMING

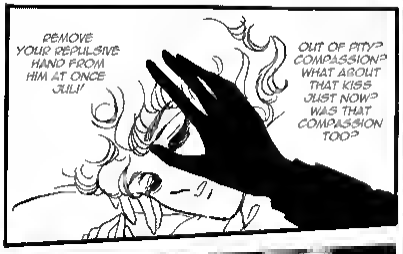

AWFUL
ERIC!
HOW COULD SHE
SHE'S AWFUL...


SHE JUST DIED AND LEFT ME! HOW COULD SHE?
WHAT'S WRONG, ERIC?
SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE! SHE DIDN'T EVEN WARN ME!
WITHOUT A WORD
ERIC!

NO!
OOH
WHOW

clink
flick
clatter
HM?
HOW MANY ?
BEFORE HERR ARTUR PRESCRIBED THEM TO ME I HAD A FEW LEFT
SLEEPING TABLETS SAFE FOR A SLIGHT LAD LIKE YOU
clack
WHAT WAS THAT?

KILL ME
KILL ME
KILL ME
KILL
ME
conk
HIS MOTHER WAS IN AN ACCIDENT? IS THIS WHY HE'S SO UPSET?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WAS IT... A FATAL DOSE?
ZZZ
THE POOR THING
HE MUST'VE LOVED HIS MOTHER SO MUCH
"BEHOLD MY ENGAGEMENT RING"


REMOVE YOUR REPULSIVE HAND FROM HIM AT ONCE JULI!
OUT OF PITY? COMPASSION? WHAT ABOUT THAT KISS JUST NOW? WAS THAT COMPASSION TOO?

REMOVE YOUR HAND, JULIUSMOLE BAYHAN! WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU STROKING HIS HAIR SO TENDERLY?

WHAT ON EARTH MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF LOVING SOMEONE YOURSELF?
THEN QUICKLY STAND UP AND LEAVE THE ROOM!

DO YOU EVEN HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LOVE SOMEONE, JULIUSMOLE?
YOU'VE SOLD YOURSELF TO THE DEVIL! YOU'LL NEVER BE GRANTED THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL, JULIUSMOLE!

PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR EVENING BUT ERIC RECEIVED A LETTER ABOUT HIS MOTHER.
WHAT LETTER?
I creak
YES SIR.
IS THAT YOU, JULLIS-MOLE?
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO A LETTER FROM LAWYER ALPHONNE KIMBURG, THEN I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HIM TOO.
OSCAR
IT OCCURED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS
TWO WEEKS AGO HERR KIMBURG RECEIVED NEWS OF AN ACCIDENT, AND WENT TO PARIS AT ONCE.
I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE REST OF THE DETAILS.
HE ASKED AFTER HERR SCHWARTZ, AND LEARNED THAT ONE OF HIS LEGS HAD TO BE AMPUTATED
WAS TRAPPED IN THE CAR, WHICH WENT UP IN FLAMES
FRAU MARIE
TWO WEEKS AGO? BUT ERIC'S BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME FOR A LETTER FROM HIS MOTHER!

I'D PROBABLY THINK IT BEST TO TELL HIM TOMORROW... SOME TIME TOMORROW
NATURALLY, I'D LEAVE IT FOR ANOTHER DAY TOO
I SUPPOSE IF I WERE PLACED IN THE POSITION OF TELLING MY SON THAT HIS MOTHER WAS DEAD...
HE WASN'T TOLD ANY OF THIS AT THE TIME.
MY FATHER ONE DAY SAID HE HEARD A GUNSHOT. WHEN HE ENTERED THE ROOM A MINUTE LATER, HE FOUND MY MOTHER DEAD!
TOMORROW... I'LL LET EVERYONE IN THE CLASS KNOW.
POOR ERIC. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? HE MUST BE HURTING SO MUCH.
AS HIS FRIENDS I WANT YOU BOTH TO STAND BY HIM.
EVEN ERIC'S...
THE PASSAGE OF TIME... GENERALLY HEALS ALL WOUNDS,
I THINK IT'S THE FIRST FEW DAYS THAT ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT.

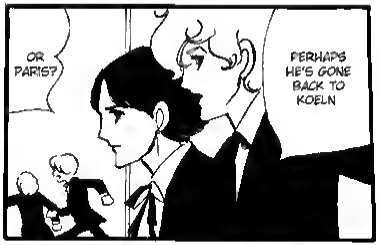
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE HEADMASTER'S OFFICE?
OSCAR,
READING THE NEWSPAPER IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DO, DON'T I?
WHEN THEY NOTICE HOW THE HEADMASTER INDULGES YOU LIKE THIS
AND IT DOESN'T GO DOWN TOO WELL WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS
IT'S SPECIAL TREATMENT
SO DOES THIS MAKE ERIC AN ORPHAN?
THERE'S HERR SCHWARTZ HE'LL BECOME ERIC'S LEGAL GUARDIAN
HE'S LOST A LEG, HASN'T HE?
WE SIT FACING EACH OTHER AND READ THE NEWSPAPER AND TALK LITTLE OF SCHOOL
MOST OF THE TIME WE READ IN SILENCE
YOU SEE I'M WAITING FOR OUR HEADMASTER
TO BRING UP HIS DESIRE TO ADOPT ME AS HIS SON. HE'LL SPEAK OF IT SOON ENOUGH
ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S TRUE
SO SOMEHOW YOU'LL BECOME A SON TO A FRIEND OF YOUR FAMILY?
WHAT IF THE ARRANGEMENT DOESN'T WORK OUT?

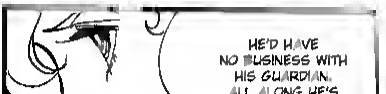
SO WHAT HAND OF CARDS DO YOU HOLD?
A HAND THAT CAN'T BE BEATEN. ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSH!
YOU PUT ON A GOOD POKER FACE
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN.
BUT IT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME I'M PLAYING!
THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE JOKER WILL BE THE VICTOR! THAT'S THE CARD UP MY SLEEVE
WITH THIS ONE HAND OF CARDS I'M CERTAIN I'LL BE ABLE TO TOP ANY OTHER HAND.
SAVE YOUR CONCERN FOR POOR ERIC, HEAD PREFECT!
ERIC'S WORSE OFF THAN ME
SO WHO'S GOT THE POKER FACE?

SHE KISSED ME
KISSED
KISSED ME
THEN I TOOK OUT MY GUN AS SHE WALKED OUT THE DOOR. BANG! ONE SHOT WAS ALL IT TOOK.
KISSED ME AND SAID GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
BANG! ONE SHOT WAS ALL IT TOOK!
Slap
WHEN HE ENTERED THE ROOM HE FOUND MY MOTHER DEAD!
OSCAR WAS EXTREMELY ABRUPT WITH ME JUST NOW
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM?
WHO'S THERE? IF YOU DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE, I'LL COME OVER AND SLAP YOU!
THAT PEST!
ANTE WAS THERE TOO. HE PASSED ME AS HE RAN OFF.
SORRY, I THOUGHT IT WAS ANTE. I DON'T MIND IF IT'S YOU.
I GIVE UP
OH!

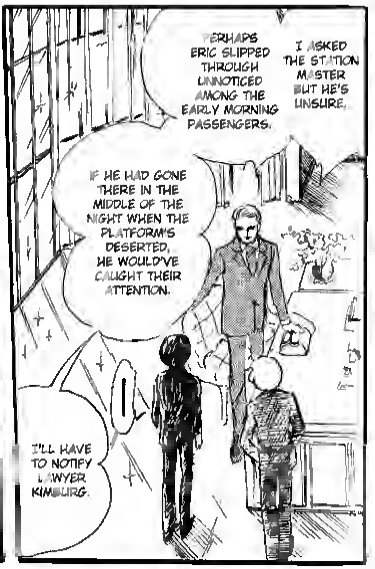
LOOKS LIKE HE'S LEFT ALREADY...
ANTE!
HE WORSHIPS YOU AS IF YOU WERE GOD HIMSELF.
THAT BRAT! I'LL CHASE HIM LATER
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
UH HUH... MY MOOD'S A BIT LOW SINCE I FEEL BAD FOR ERIC...
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE IN A FOUL MOOD?
ERIC'S MOTHER HAS PASSED AWAY
IT SEEMS I'VE LOST TO THOMAS WERNER.
I CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF JULI'S MIND
EVEN THOUGH I HOLD THE JOKER... I'VE LOST TO A BOY WHO HARDLY EVEN KNEW HIM...
EVEN THOUGH JULI'S MOTIVATIONS ARE WELL-KNOWN AND ALL-VISIBLE TO ME EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS JULI BEST...

AH
shine
DID I END UP FALLING ASLEEP AT MY DESK?
ERIC
wham
HIS COAT'S GONE!
I DIDN'T REALIZE ERIC HAD GONE OUT!


OR PARIS?
PERHAPS HE'S GONE BACK TO KOELN

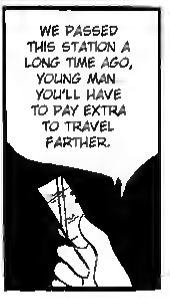

HE'D HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH HIS GUARDIAN. ALL ALONG HE'S WANTED TO RETURN HOME.

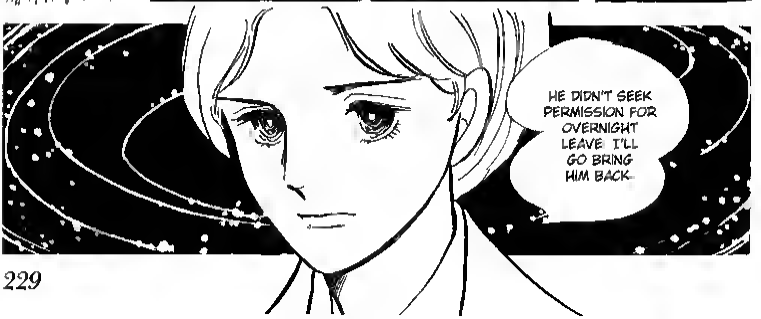
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
Morning!
chatter
chatter
Morning!


PERHAPS ERIC SLIPPED THROUGH UNNOTICED AMONG THE EARLY MORNING PASSENGERS.
I ASKED THE STATION MASTER BUT HE'S UNSURE.
IF HE HAD GONE THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHEN THE PLATFORM'S DESERTED, HE WOULD'VE CAUGHT THEIR ATTENTION.
I'LL HAVE TO NOTIFY LAWYER KIMBURG.

RATTLE
KOELN

HOW MUCH?
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?


WE PASSED THIS STATION A LONG TIME AGO, YOUNG MAN YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY EXTRA TO TRAVEL FARTHER.

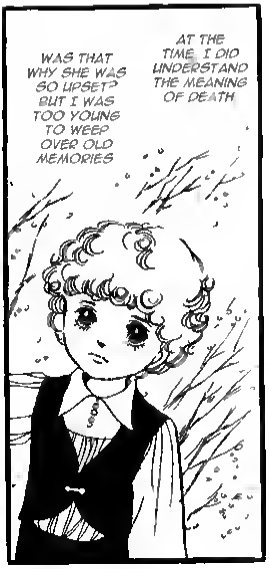

HE DIDN'T SEEK PERMISSION FOR OVERNIGHT LEAVE. I'LL GO BRING HIM BACK.

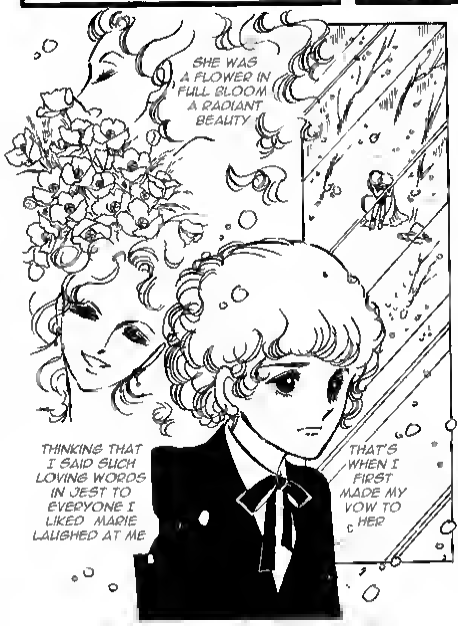
THE INCESSANT CALLS FROM HER LOVERS DEPRESSED ME. FOR THEY WERE NEARLY ALL DESPICABLE MEN
SHE WAS A FLOWER IN FULL BLOOM A RADIANT BEAUTY
MARIE
EARLY AUTUMN
IT WAS
MARIE WAS WEEPING BEFORE GRANDMA'S GRAVE
OH ERIC, GRANDMA HAS PASSED AWAY. SHE'S GONE UP TO HEAVEN, ERIC
I'LL BE THE ONE AND ONLY MASTER OF THE HOUSE-HOLD!
BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU!
CALL ME BY MY TITLE NOT MY FIRST NAME ALONE!

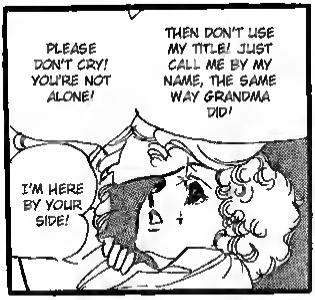
YOU'LL GROW UP AND FALL IN LOVE
FOR THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL CHILDREN
THEN I'LL BE ON MY OWN AGAIN, MASTER ERIC.
I WON'T LEAVE YOU! I WON'T GROW UP EITHER!

YOU'RE NOT ALONE I'M HERE MAMA

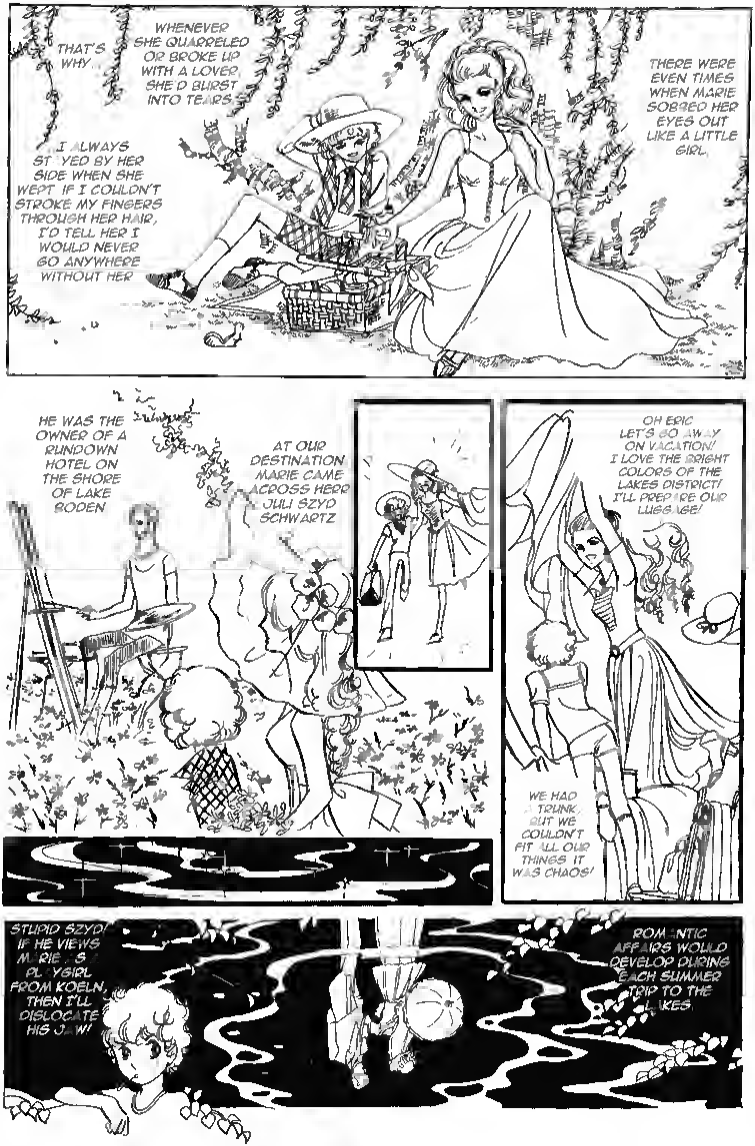
BUT YOU TOO WILL LEAVE ME BEHIND SOMEDAY


WAS THAT WHY SHE WAS SO UPSET? BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO WEEP OVER OLD MEMORIES
AT THE TIME, I DID UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF DEATH

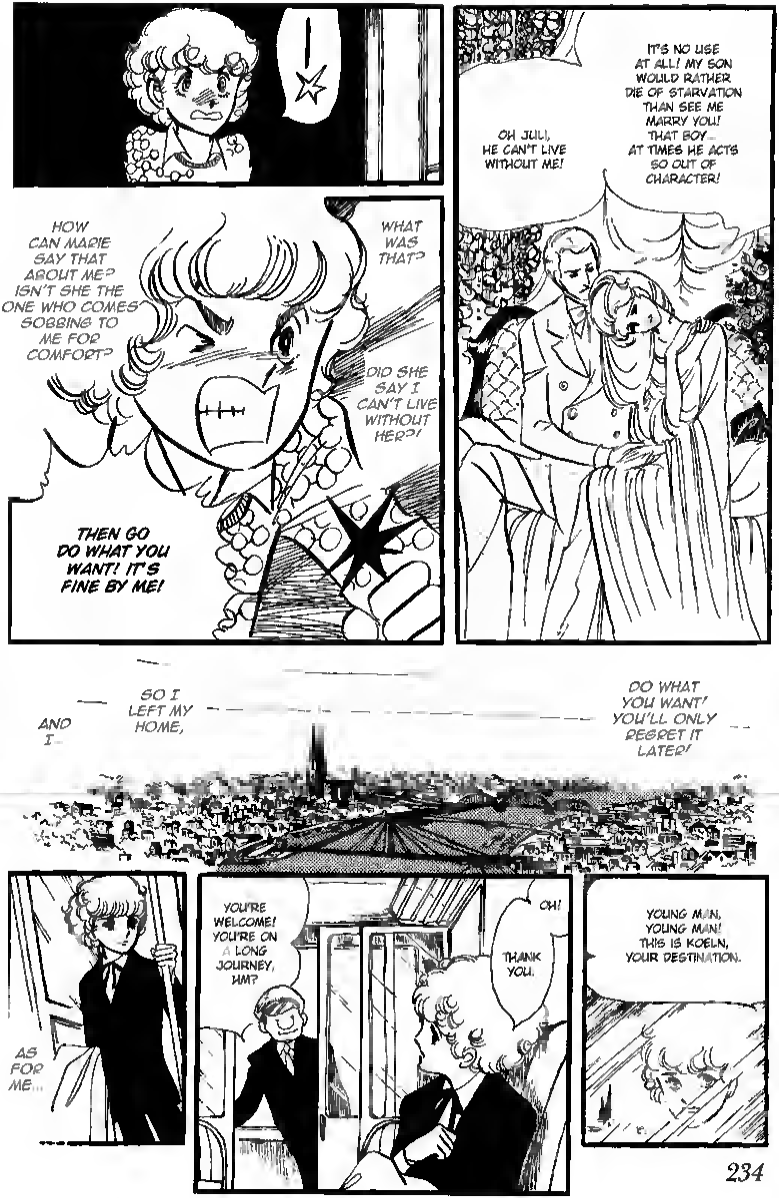

SHE WAS A FLOWER IN FULL BLOOM A RADIANT BEAUTY
THINKING THAT I SAID SUCH LOVING WORDS IN JEST TO EVERYONE I LIKED MARIE LAUGHED AT ME
THAT'S WHEN I FIRST MADE MY VOW TO HER

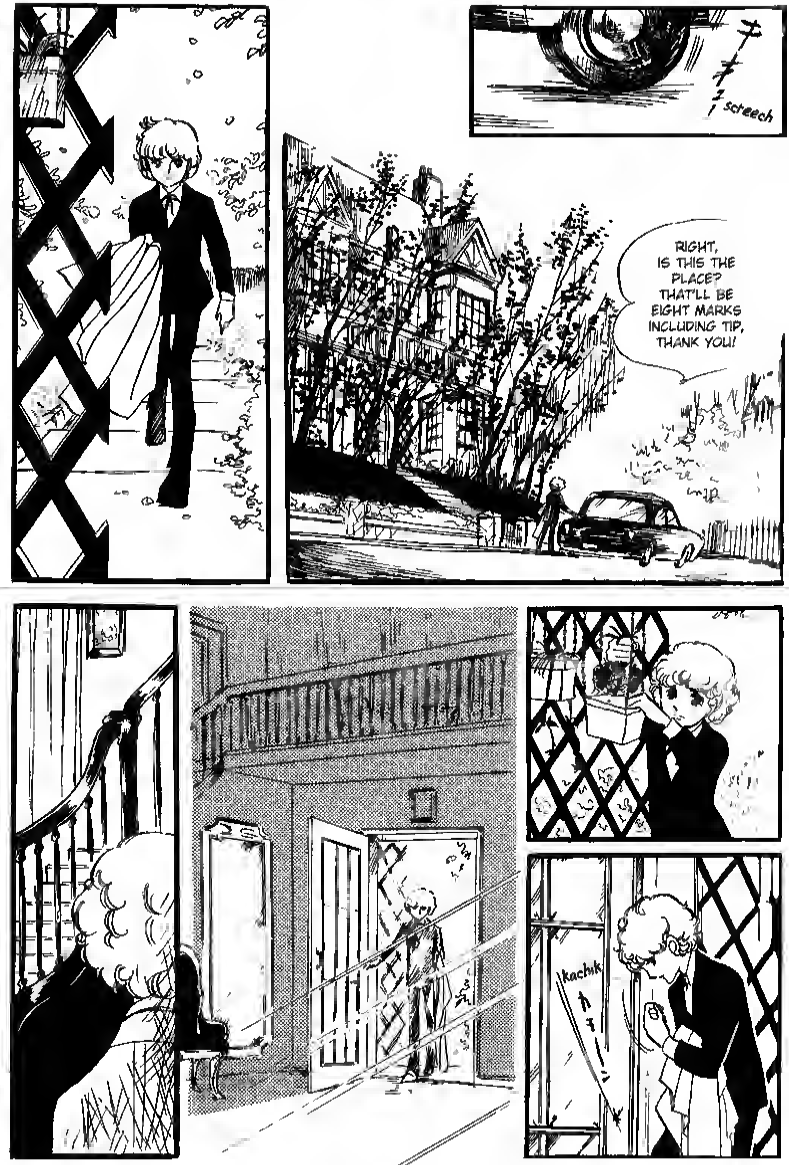

PLEASE DON'T CRY! YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
THEN DON'T USE MY TITLE! JUST CALL ME BY MY NAME, THE SAME WAY GRANDMA DID!
I'M HERE BY YOUR SIDE!

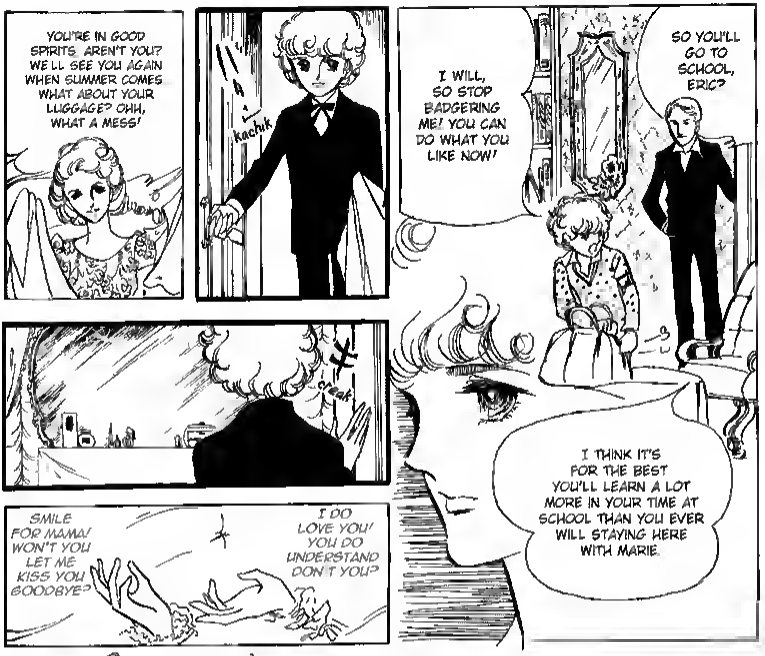
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
MARIE! MAMA MARIE!


THAT'S WHY...
WHENEVER SHE QUARRELED OR BROKE UP WITH A LOVER, SHE'D BURST INTO TEARS.
THERE WERE EVEN TIMES WHEN MARIE SOBBED HER EYES OUT LIKE A LITTLE GIRL.
...I ALWAYS STAYED BY HER SIDE WHEN SHE WEPT. IF I COULDN'T STROKE MY FINGERS THROUGH HER HAIR, I'D TELL HER I WOULD NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT HER
HE WAS THE OWNER OF A RUNDOWN HOTEL ON THE SHORE OF LAKE RODEN.
AT OUR DESTINATION, MARIE CAME ACROSS HERR JULI SZYDSCHWARTZ.
OH ERIC, LET'S GO AWAY ON VACATION! I LOVE THE BRIGHT COLORS OF THE LAKES DISTRICT! I'LL PREPARE OUR LUGGAGE!
WE HAD A TRUNK, BUT WE COULDN'T FIT ALL OUR THINGS. IT WAS CHAOS!
STUPID SZYD! IF HE VIEWS MARIE AS A PLAYGIRL FROM KOELN, THEN I'LL DISLOCATE HIS JAW!
ROMANTIC AFFAIRS WOULD DEVELOP DURING EACH SUMMER TRIP TO THE LAKES.

IN SPITE OF THIS SHE DIDN'T GIVE UP HER OTHER BOYFRIENDS SO HE SHUT THE HOTEL AND RUSHED TO KOELN COVERED IN SNOW HE APPEARED LIKE SANTA ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
SERVES THEM RIGHT! THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
HOPING TO BE RECONCILED WITH HER HE CAME AFTER MARIE IN THE SUMMER OF LAST YEAR WAS HER LOVER AT THE TIME MY FENCING INSTRUCTOR? IN ANY CASE THE THREE OF THEM HAD A BIG SHOWDOWN BY THE LAKE!
GOODNESS ME! I SPOKE IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, YOU KNOW
TO MARIE? YOU'RE JOKING, AREN'T YOU?
I'M THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE
YOU DO APPROVE, DON'T YOU?
HE WOOED HER OVER MANY VISITS UNTIL FINALLY THIS SUMMER
YOU MEN ARE ALL THE SAME!
DON'T SPEAK THAT WAY! YOUR ROMANCE WON'T LAST!
IF ONLY YOU WERE A BIT BETTER BEHAVED
FOOL! I HEAR YOUR ANSWER LOUD AND CLEAR
FINALLY MARIE GAVE IN
BOO HOO! BOO HOO!
I HELD FIRM AGAINST MARIE'S PLEAS FOR THREE DAYS
MARIE APPRECIATES ME MUSTACHE FACE!
I'LL SAY WHAT I LIKE TO YOU!
WHY SHOULD I BE BETTER BEHAVED?
NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!


!
OH JULI, HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME!
IT'S NO USE AT ALL! MY SON WOULD RATHER DIE OF STARVATION THAN SEE ME MARRY YOU! THAT BOY— AT TIMES HE ACTS SO OUT OF CHARACTER!
WHAT WAS THAT?
HOW CAN MARIE SAY THAT ABOUT ME? ISN'T SHE THE ONE WHO COMES SOBBING TO ME FOR COMFORT?
DID SHE SAY I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER?!
THEN GO DO WHAT YOU WANT! IT'S FINE BY ME!
DO WHAT YOU WANT! YOU'LL ONLY REGRET IT LATER!
SO I LEFT MY HOME,
AND I—
AS FOR ME...
YOU'RE WELCOME! YOU'RE ON A LONG JOURNEY, HM?
OH! THANK YOU.
YOUNG MAN, YOUNG MAN! THIS IS KOELN, YOUR DESTINATION.


screech
RIGHT, IS THIS THE PLACE? THAT'LL BE EIGHT MARKS INCLUDING TIP, THANK YOU!
Kachik

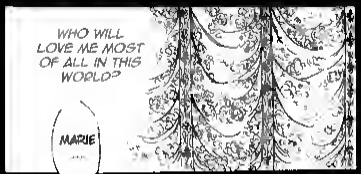

YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS, AREN'T YOU? WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN WHEN SUMMER COMES. WHAT ABOUT YOUR LUGGAGE? OHH, WHAT A MESS!
kachik
I WILL, SO STOP BADGERING ME! YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE NOW!
SO YOU'LL GO TO SCHOOL, ERIC?
creak
SMILE FOR MAMA! WON'T YOU LET ME KISS YOU GOODBYE?
I DO LOVE YOU! YOU DO UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST YOU'LL LEARN A LOT MORE IN YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL THAN YOU EVER WILL STAYING HERE WITH MARIE.

topple

THEN I'D LET HER DO ANYTHING SHE WANTED!
IF I COULD SEE MARIE AGAIN
I WONDER WHY I WAS SO OPPOSED TO THE MARRIAGE

I WANTED TO TIE MARIE DOWN AND KEEP HER ALL TO MYSELF
BUT I WAS SO STUBBORN AT THE TIME

WHO WILL STROKE MY HAIR?


WHO WILL LOVE ME MOST OF ALL IN THIS WORLD?
MARIE ....

MARIE !
MARIE ....
MARIE !
MARIE ....
MARIE !
WHO WILL CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME?

WHY DID I LONG SO DESPERATELY FOR HER LETTER TO ME?
HOW COULD I LET MYSELF BECOME SO DEPENDENT ON HER?
NOW, AT THIS MOMENT ...

GOOD MORNING! DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT? WHAT'S THE TIME NOW?
WHO AM I? I'M ERIC.
ching
I DIALLED A RANDOM PHONE NUMBER FOR FUN
YOU'RE CROSS NOW, AREN'T YOU? I JUST WANTED SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO
UH HUH, I DON'T KNOW YOU EITHER
NICE TALKING TO YOU GOODBYE
WHERE'S MY MAMA? SHE'S NOT HERE. MY MAMA DIED IN PARIS TWO WEEKS AGO
glop glop
toot

GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING HERR KIMBURG
WHEN I SAW THE LIGHTS ON LAST NIGHT, I KNEW YOU WERE BACK HOME
ERIC! WON'T YOU OPEN THE DOOR FOR ME?
I DON'T NEED OVERNIGHT LEAVE!
I EXPLAINED THAT YOU HAD ARRIVED IN KOELN
THE SCHOOL RANG ME EARLIER TO SAY YOU WEREN'T GRANTED OVERNIGHT LEAVE
YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THIS HOUSE ANYMORE BECAUSE IT'S BEEN PUT UP FOR SALE. I BELIEVE FRAU MARIE TRANSFERRED THE DEED OF THIS HOUSE TO HER FORMER HUSBAND'S FAMILY
ERIC,
I WON'T DO ANYTHING I'LL JUST STAY HERE
I'VE QUIT SCHOOL NOW HERE HAVE SOME TEA
QUIT? SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

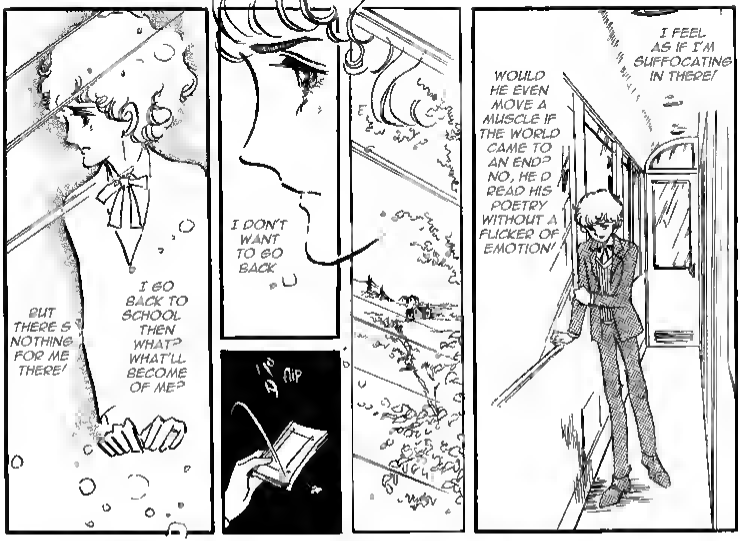
I WAS BORN IN THIS HOUSE AND I WAS RAISED IN THIS HOUSE! THIS IS MY HOUSE!
WHAT CAN AN OUTSIDER LIKE YOU SAY TO THAT?
THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO MARIE AND ME... MARIE AND ME...
YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS AT ALL! IF YOU MEAN AN INHERITANCE, YOU'RE FAR TOO YOUNG TO INHERIT THE PROPERTY NOW
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?? I HAVE THE RIGHT...
ANYWAY, YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN
YOUR FATHER HAS REMARRIED AND LIVES THERE NOW.
YOU WERE BORN IN HAMBURG, NOT HERE.
A YEAR AFTER YOU WERE BORN YOUR PARENTS DIVORCED. KOELN IS THE HOME OF MARIE'S FAMILY
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DIDN'T FRAU MARIE TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
MY... FATHER ?

IT COMES DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES
dong
THE DOORBELL IS RINGING SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE HAS ARRIVED
AS TO WHO WILL TAKE OVER YOUR CARE...
SINCE YOU'RE STILL A MINOR, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN TO LOOK AFTER YOUR INTERESTS. I SUPPOSE IT COMES DOWN TO A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES - EITHER THAT OF HERR SCHWARTZ OR HERR BRAUN, YOUR NATURAL FATHER...
BUT MARIE... MARIE TOLD ME NOTHING!
I'LL BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU. YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT, AS YOUR LAWYER, THIS SITUATION ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER
YES, I'M FROM SCHLOTTERBETZ I'VE COME FOR ERIC
WHO MIGHT YOU BE? DO YOU KNOW ERIC?
GOOD MORNING. SIR. ARE YOU HERR KIMBURG?
kachak
SO YOU CAME ON THE OVERNIGHT TRAIN AS SOON YOU RECEIVED MY CALL? WELL, I'M MOST GRATEFUL YOU'RE HERE.

IT'S YOUR CLASSMATE ERIC! GOOD TIMING, ISN'T IT?
SMASH!
Slap
GET LOST! WHY DID YOU TURN UP HERE?
ERIC!

NO.
YOU WEREN'T HURT, WERE YOU?
crack
WHAT HYSTERICAL BEHAVIOR! IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT A FRIEND WHO'S COME ALL THIS WAY TO FIND YOU?
I'M APPALLED!
YOU'VE YET TO WORK FOR YOURSELF AND EARN A SINGLE PENNY OF YOUR OWN, YET YOU CARELESSLY WRECK SOMEONE'S WORK OF FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP ON A WHIM! HOW OUTRAGEOUS!
THAT WAS FRAU MARIE'S FAVORITE TEAPOT! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT WAS WORTH? I REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL!
LEAVE THE REST TO ME
VERY WELL, THEN. GO BACK TO SCHOOL
IT'S UNACCEPTABLE FOR YOU NOT TO RECEIVE A PROPER EDUCATION.

WHERE'S OSCAR?
WHAT A STRESSFUL AND MISERABLE MORNING
HE'S AT SCHOOL HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU
SLAM
A BOOK OF POEMS TO PASS THE TIME
WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT?
thud


I FEEL AS IF I'M SUFFOCATING IN THERE!
WOULD HE EVEN MOVE A MUSCLE IF THE WORLD CAME TO AN END? NO, HE'D READ HIS POETRY WITHOUT A FLICKER OF EMOTION!
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK
I GO BACK TO SCHOOL THEN WHAT? WHAT'LL BECOME OF ME?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME THERE!

PERHAPS HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME AS WELL
AND EVEN TOOK THE OVERNIGHT TRAIN
YET HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO PICK ME UP

GIESSEN IN ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES! LAST STOP!
GIESSEN! LAST STOP!
GIESSEN?
DID YOU EXPECT TO GET OFF AT KARLSRUHE?
NO, I'M AFRAID THIS TRAIN DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR KARLSRUHE.
LAST STOP! LAST STOP! DISEMBARK! PLEASE!
IS THIS GIESSEN? I DON'T KNOW THIS PLACE AT ALL!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE TOO. APPARENTLY THESE TRAINS SWITCH OVER TO THE KOBLENZ LINE.
BUT I SUPPOSE WE CAN CATCH A NORMAL TRAIN BOUND FOR FRANKFURT FROM HERE.
STAY HERE. I'LL GO CHECK.
TICKETS
CHECK
TICK
TICK
TICK

WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU LOST, BOY? WHAT LOVELY CURLS YOU HAVE!
tap
THIS IS A BAD OMEN
HM?
HEY, I KNOW THIS TIE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! ARE YOU FROM SCHLOTTERBETZ?
?
I AM! HOW DO YOU KNOW?
ERIC!
WE'RE JUST IN TIME! A TRAIN BOUND FOR FRANKFURT IS ABOUT TO DEPART WE'VE GOT TO HURRY

WELL...
LONG TIME NO SEE...
SEIFRIET!
JULI...
JULI?
.....
IT WAS A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING, WASN'T IT, JULLISMOLE?

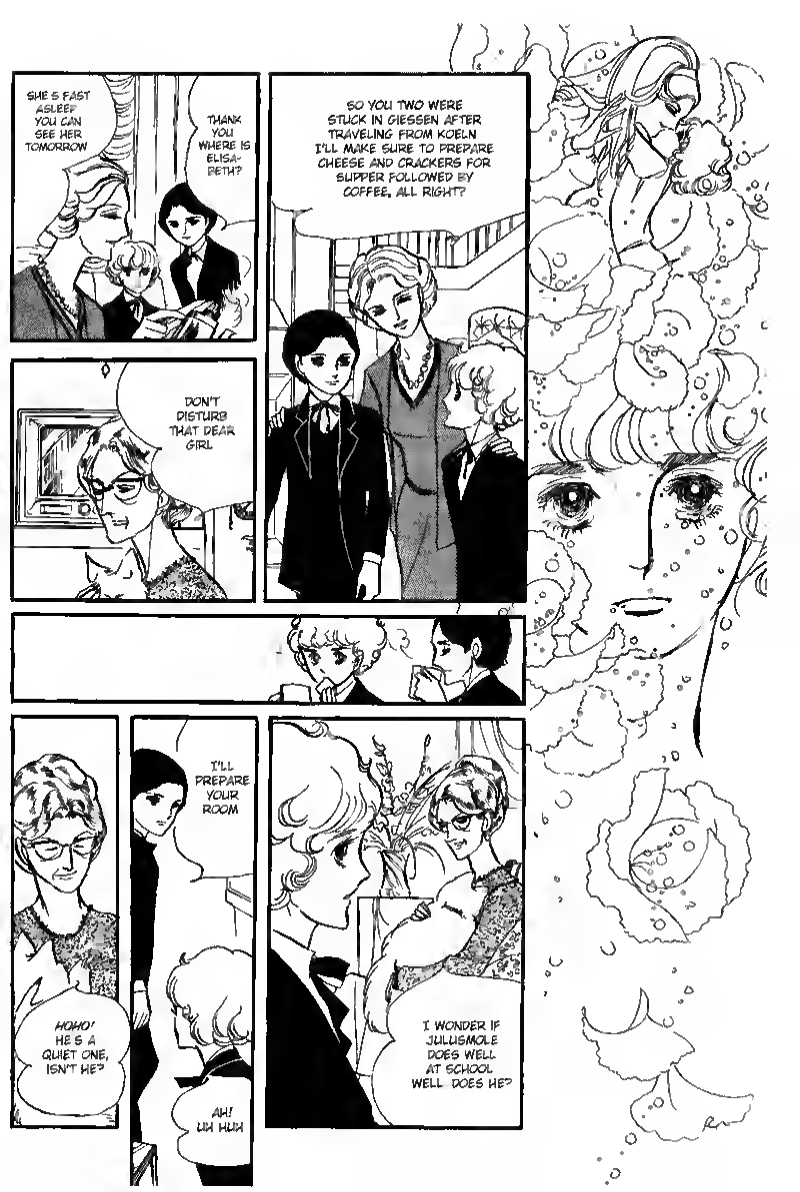
SLAM
JULI, DID YOU KNOW THAT FELLOW JUST NOW?
DID YOU KNOW HIM?
IS HE A GRADUATE OF SCHLOTTERBETZ?
BACK THERE HE SAID
IT'S PRIVATE! IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM!

IT WAS DRIZZLING WITH RAIN BY THE TIME WE REACHED FRANKFURT THE TIME WAS ALREADY FIVE O'CLOCK
THE TRAIN BOUND FOR KARLSRUHE IS DELAYED BECAUSE OF A FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENT IT MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME TO ARRIVE.
HOW COME?
IT'LL BE A THREE-HOUR WAIT
I'VE CALLED THE SCHOOL AND MY HOME TO LET THEM KNOW
I SEE
MY FAMILY LIVES IN WIESBADEN, JUST WEST OF FRANKFURT
YOUR HOME?

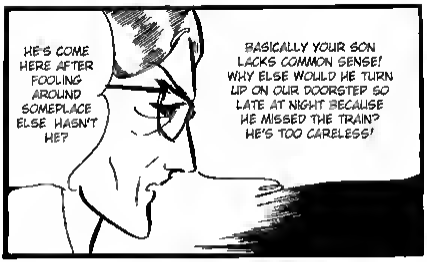
I DON'T WANT TO GO
IT'S BEST IF WE STAY THERE OVERNIGHT. THEN RETURN TO SCHOOL TOMORROW. THERE'S A TRAIN BOUND FOR WIESBADEN IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. WE'LL BE THERE IN AN HOUR.
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO GO!
I'VE ALREADY CALLED SO MY MOTHER WILL BE EXPECTING US...
THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION.
...AND YOU'RE A BIT UPSET ABOUT COMING BACK
IT'S BAD MANNERS... TO SHOUT HERE IN PUBLIC. I FORGOT THAT YOU WERE MOURNING THE DEATH OF YOUR MOTHER...
I CAN'T STAND YOU!
WHY?
BUT WON'T YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF COMING TO MY FAMILY HOME, ERIC?

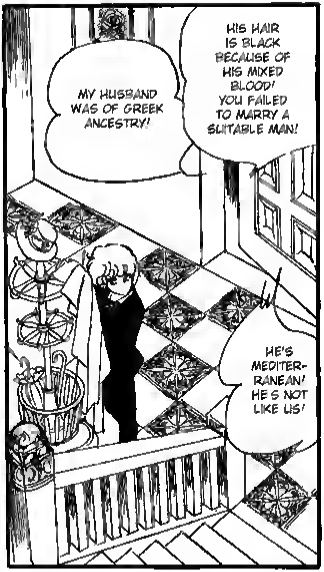
HIS EYES...
THERE WERE NO MORE BUSES, SO WE HAD TO WALK FROM THE STATION.
THE STREET LAMPS SWAYED TO AND FRO.
IN WIESBADEN, THE SKY WAS SO CLEAR WE COULD SEE FALLING STARS.
HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LOOKS FAVORABLY UPON THOSE WHO PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT WITHOUT SLACKING OFF.
...THEN WHEN HE LOST HIS TEMPER, HE MADE MY HAIR STAND UP ON END.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JULI AT ALL.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE BEHAVED IN A STRICT AND RIGIDLY COURTEOUS MANNER.
THAT ODD FELLOW WITH THE LONG HAIR...
...I WONDER KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
IS HE CLEVER OR IS HE A FOOL?
IN THE END DO I SEE HIM AS A GOOD HEAD PREFECT OR A USELESS LAYABOUT?

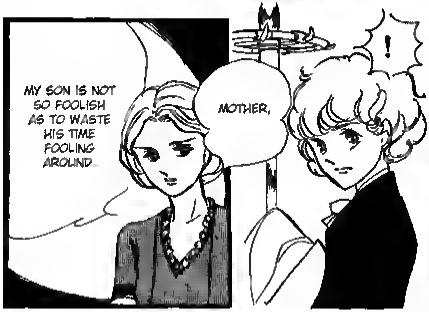
I'M HOME, GRANDMA PARDON THE LATENESS OF OUR ARRIVAL
COME RIGHT IN, ERIC
OH! WELCOME BACK, JULLISMOLE BUT YOU'RE LATE
TO stare
YES I HEARD WELL THEN, DO COME INSIDE
I DID TELL MOTHER ABOUT HIM WHEN I RANG EARLIER
WELCOME HOME
I'M BACK MOTHER
JILLIS-MOLE!

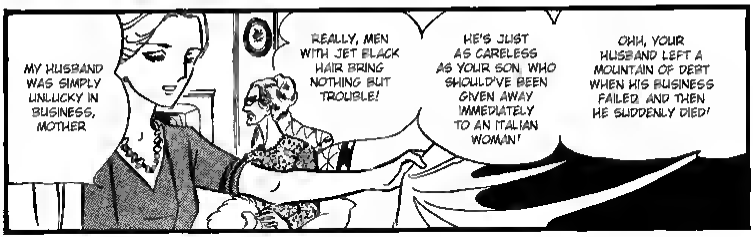

SHE'S FAST ASLEEP YOU CAN SEE HER TOMORROW
THANK YOU WHERE IS ELISABETH?
SO YOU TWO WERE STUCK IN GIESSEN AFTER TRAVELING FROM KOELN I'LL MAKE SURE TO PREPARE CHEESE AND CRACKERS FOR SUPPER FOLLOWED BY COFFEE, ALL RIGHT?
DON'T DISTURB THAT DEAR GIRL
I'LL PREPARE YOUR ROOM
HOHO! HE'S A QUIET ONE, ISN'T HE?
AH! UH HUH
I WONDER IF JULLISMOLE DOES WELL AT SCHOOL WELL DOES HE?

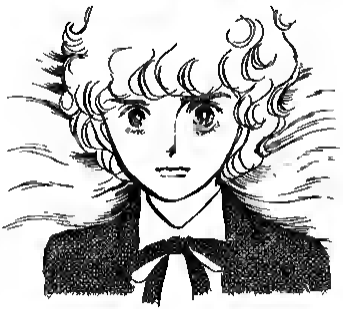
stare
ｼﾞｰ
SLEEP WELL, GRANDMA
WASN'T HE SUCH AN ADORABLE CHILD, CHERYL! HE MUST BE FROM A FINE FAMILY, PLUS HE HAS TAWNY EYES AND LIGHT BROWN HAIR! DON'T YOU AGREE, CHERYL? HE WAS A LITTLE ILL-MANNERED THOUGH
AHH... I WONDER WHERE I LEFT MY COAT...
IN THE HALL-WAY?
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO HAVE A BOY LIKE THAT IN OUR FAMILY!
RIGHT I'LL FETCH IT AND BE RIGHT BACK
UGH! WHY DID YOUR SON END UP WITH BLACK HAIR?
JUUUSMOLE LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE AN ARABIAN FOREIGNER!
MY HUSBAND WAS BORN IN DEUTSCHLAND, MOTHER...


HE'S COME HERE AFTER FOOLING AROUND SOMEPLACE ELSE. HASN'T HE?
BASICALLY YOUR SON LACKS COMMON SENSE! WHY ELSE WOULD HE TURN UP ON OUR DOORSTEP SO LATE AT NIGHT BECAUSE HE MISSED THE TRAIN? HE'S TOO CARELESS!


MY HUSBAND WAS OF GREEK ANCESTRY!
HIS HAIR IS BLACK BECAUSE OF HIS MIXED BLOOD! YOU FAILED TO MARRY A SUITABLE MAN!
HE'S MEDITERRANEAN! HE'S NOT LIKE US!


MY SON IS NOT SO FOOLISH AS TO WASTE HIS TIME FOOLING AROUND
MOTHER,
!

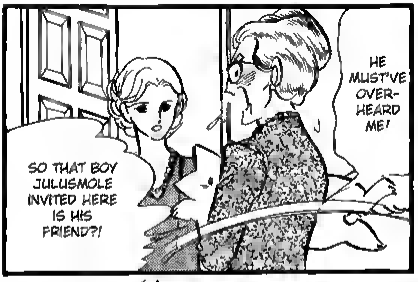

MY HUSBAND WAS SIMPLY UNLUCKY IN BUSINESS, MOTHER
REALLY, MEN WITH JET BLACK HAIR BRING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
HE'S JUST AS CARELESS AS YOUR SON. WHO SHOULD'VE BEEN GIVEN AWAY IMMEDIATELY TO AN ITALIAN WOMAN!
OHH, YOUR HUSBAND LEFT A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT WHEN HIS BUSINESS FAILED, AND THEN HE SUDDENLY DIED!



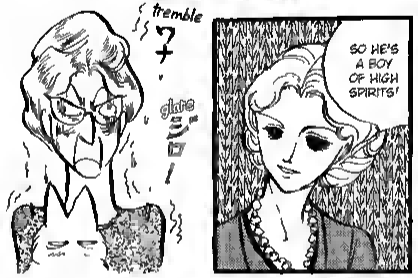
OHH, CHERYL! ELISABETH IS A FINE GIRL FOR SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR!

THEN WHAT ABOUT ELISABETH? SHE'S HIS DAUGHTER AS WELL

DID YOU FIND YOUR COAT?
SHE HAS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES JUST LIKE ME! SHE'S A TRUE NATIVE OF DEUTSCHLAND!
stomp stomp
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS YOUR HOME? YOU SURE THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY?
YES THEY ARE
GET LOST, YOU HORRID OLD HAG!
HOW DARE SHE TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT!
SO...SO... THAT WOMAN REALLY IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER?
ERIC!
ERIC!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
YOU'RE NOT IN BED YET, JULLISMOLE
MY WORD, SOON IT WILL BE A NEW DAY

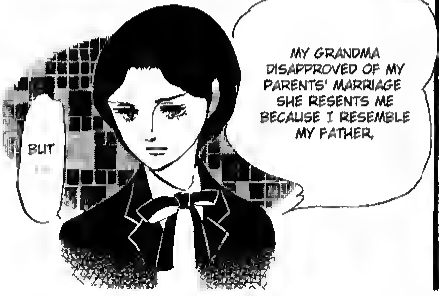

HE MUST'VE OVER-HEARD ME!
SO THAT BOY JULIUSMOLE INVITED HERE IS HIS FRIEND?!

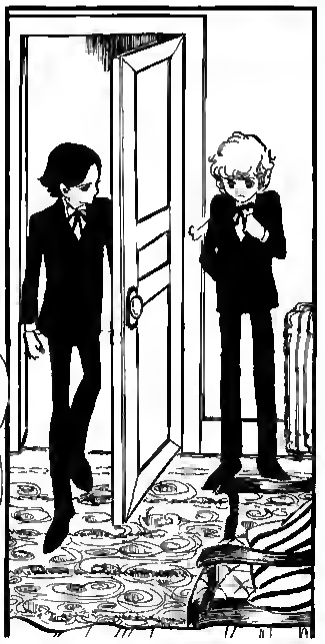
stomp
stomp
stomp
ERIC!
MY OH MY!
MY APOLOGIES, GRANDMA!


tremble
ブル
glare
ジロ!
SO HE'S A BOY OF HIGH SPIRITS!

YOU MUSTN'T GET SO ANGRY...
clack
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS

I'D NEVER PUT UP WITH IT! I'D LEAVE THIS FAMILY!
HUH? ALWAYS?

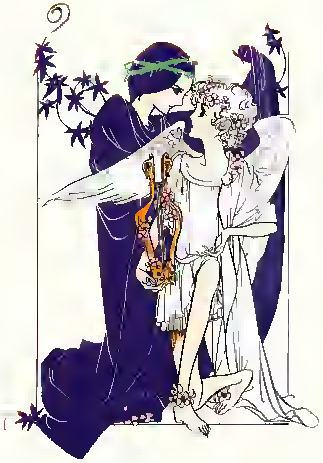

MY GRANDMA DISAPPROVED OF MY PARENTS' MARRIAGE SHE RESENTS ME BECAUSE I RESEMBLE MY FATHER.
BUT...



SHE'S A HORRID OLD HAG, AND YOU SHOULD YELL AT HER TOO!
INDEBTED TO HER? HOW CAN YOU EVEN PUT UP WITH HER?
MY MOTHER AND I ARE EXTREMELY INDEBTED TO HER AS WELL
IF I CAN REPAY MY FATHER'S DEBTS IN FULL AND TAKE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OFF MY GRANDMA, THEN SHE'LL CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT HIM AND ME
INSTEAD, I'LL ACHIEVE SUCCESS WHEN I GROW UP
THAT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
THOSE SIX TRIBES BECAME THE FOUNDATION OF DEUTSCHLAND
SAXON SCHWABEN, BAYERN FRIESLAND FRANKEN AND THUERINGEN
WHEN I MET HER FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH I SAW THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT ME!
MY FATHER WASN'T FROM ANY OF THEM.
EVERY-ONE
WHO'S PREJU-DICED LIKE THAT?
EVEN IF THERE'S A PREJUDICE HERE IN NORTHERN EUROPE AGAINST THOSE FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE BEST OPTION FOR ME IS TO BIDE MY TIME AND WAIT.
SO I INTEND TO MAKE SURE THAT I BECOME SUCCESSFUL.

WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS FAIRLY SIMPLE
I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BEING RUDE AND TALKING BACK TO MY ELDERS. SO I BECAME A VERY OBEDIENT CHILD.
BECAUSE OF THE WAY SHE AND OTHERS LOOKED AT ME
THE COUNTRIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE ADORED AND DESPISED FOR THEIR IDLE WAY OF LIFE WITH THEIR WARM WATER, BRILLIANT BLOSSOMS AND PUTRID STENCH OF DECAY IN SUMMER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? BUT I'VE HAD TEACHERS WHO CAME FROM PLACES LIKE MOROCCO AND SPAIN!
SO TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF A FINE BOY, AND A TRUE NATIVE OF DEUTSCHLAND...
NATURALLY, I PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT, AND I'LL NEVER BLEMISH MY REPUTATION.
I'LL BE WHATEVER THEY WANT, AND WALK TOWARDS THE LIGHT.
...AND IT'S WITHIN MY REACH
I'LL BE EDUCATED RESOURCEFUL, A PERSON OF INTEGRITY
...WHO'S RESPECTED BY MY PEERS IN OTHER WORDS, AN IDEAL MAN PERHAPS JUST LIKE MY FATHER
THAT'S MY DREAM
YOUR PAJAMAS ARE HERE, NEW BOY.
GOOD NIGHT
creak

JULIUSMOLE'S EXPRESSION REMINDED ME OF A FACE I'D SEEN ON A CHURCH FRESCO.
I'M NOT A FOREIGNER, SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW JULI FEELS
NOW WHO COULD IT BE? AN ANGEL FROM THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE PERIOD!



Thoma no Shinzou

The Heart of Thomas by Hagio Moto

Part 5

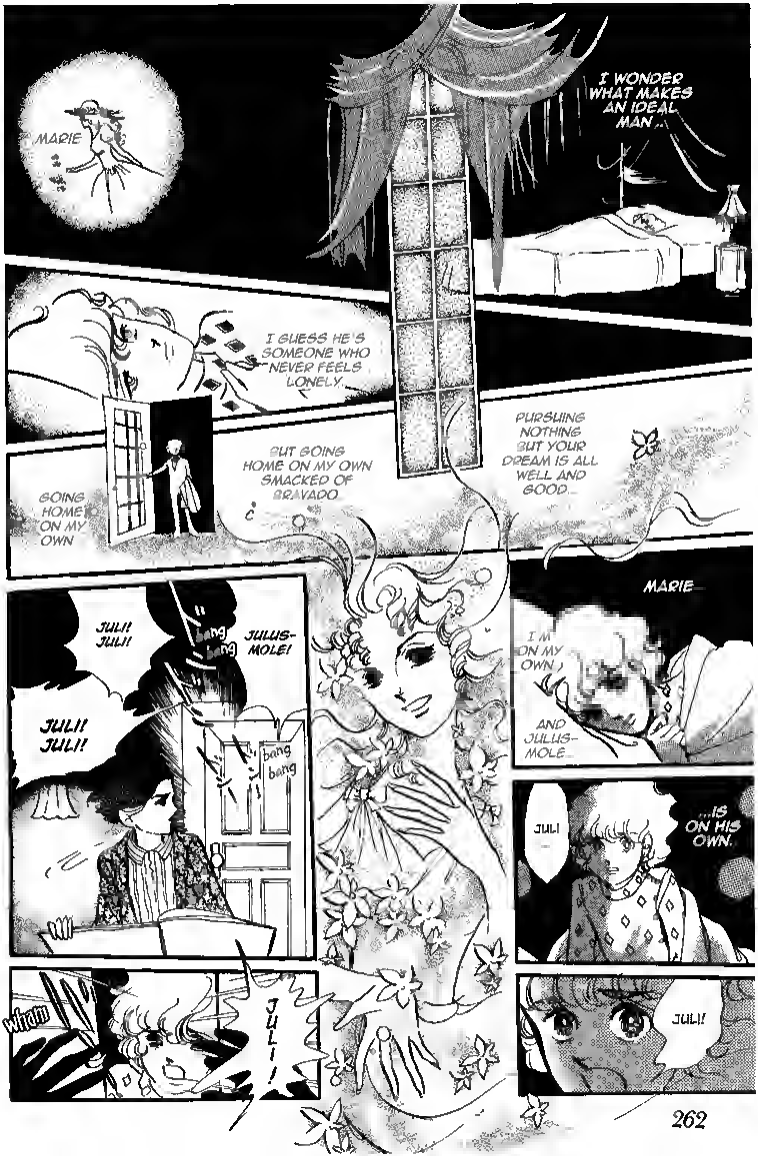
These scans are from the 1995 single bunko edition

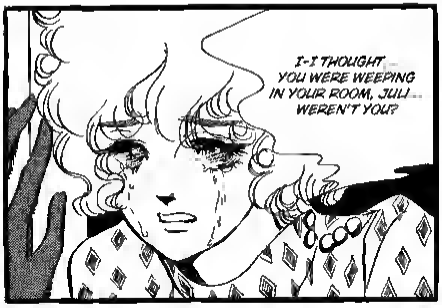
German spelling has been used for the names of characters and places where possible in order to maintain consistency with the manga

Please note that this manga was first published over three tankoubon volumes, and the scanlated pages in this zip comprise the second half of the Volume 2 tankoubon

At the end are some illustrations from the 2007 Shogakukan reprint of *Thomas no Shinzou* Volume 2, plus the original front cover artwork from tankoubon Volumes 1 and 2

Scans and cleaning: Yun-chan
German help: Gabriele
Other stuff: F


MARIE
I WONDER WHAT MAKES AN IDEAL MAN...
I GUESS HE'S SOMEONE WHO NEVER FEELS LONELY.
GOING HOME ON MY OWN
BUT GOING HOME ON MY OWN SMACKED OF BRAVADO.
PURSUING NOTHING BUT YOUR DREAM IS ALL WELL AND GOOD...
MARIE...
I'M ON MY OWN,
AND JULIUS-MOLE...
JULI! JULI!
bang bang
JULIUS-MOLE!
JULI! JULI!
bang bang
JULI
...IS ON HIS OWN.
Wham
JULI!
JULI!


I-I THOUGHT... YOU WERE WEEPING IN YOUR ROOM, JULI... WEREN'T YOU?

WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

MM...
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE IN TEARS LIKE THIS? ARE YOU UPSET ON MY BEHALF?

YOU FELT LONELY...
...BUT I'LL BE FINE IN THE MORNING

I'M SORRY I FELT LONELY BY MYSELF...

IT'S THE RAIN FROM FRANKFURT. IT'S CAUGHT UP TO US HERE.

WOULD YOU LIKE A HOT CHOCO-LATE?

I COULD NEVER SAY SUCH WORDS IN PUBLIC EVEN IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT

I DON'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE QUITE LIKE HIM. HE REMINDS ME OF A LITTLE BOY
A LITTLE BOY WHO PASSED AWAY
HE LAUGHS HE CRIES, HE LOSES HIS TEMPER
HE WEARS HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE WITHOUT RESERVATION
HE'S NOT PUTTING ON AN ACT, EITHER
I REMIND YOU OF THOMAS, DON'T I?
DO YOU HATE ME? ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
DON'T THINK OF THAT NOW. YOUR MOTHER HAS JUST PASSED AWAY
NOT AT ALL
DID I DISTURB YOU BY KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR SO LATE AT NIGHT?
I SPENT ALL OF YESTERDAY ALONE — ALONE IN MARIE'S BEDROOM
YOU MAY DETEST IT WHEN OTHERS FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, BUT I LIKE IT
YOU SEE. I BELIEVE SUCH SENTIMENTS ARISE OUT OF A GREAT SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

NEVER MIND.
THE NEXT MORNING I RANG A STRANGER I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
I... LOVED MARIE SO MUCH.
SORRY... I CAN'T STOP THESE TEARS
I WAS SURROUNDED BY THE THINGS SHE LEFT BEHIND...
GOWNS, BOTTLES OF NAIL POLISH, HAIRPINS, ...
JUST FOR TONIGHT...
I'LL BE AN ANGEL TO THIS POOR BOY JUST FOR TONIGHT
IS IT THOMAS WHO'S CRYING OR IS IT YOU, ERIC?

HOW DID I...
WHERE DID YOU SLEEP?
IN YOUR ROOM, THE GUEST BEDROOM.
SORRY! I'VE MADE A MESS OF YOUR BED!
IT'S FINE I'LL BE DOWN-STAIRS HELPING WITH BREAKFAST
OH NO!
MY EYES ARE STILL RED
DAMN JULI! HE GAVE ME SUCH A SHOCK!
MARIE
.....
I WON'T BURST INTO TEARS AND DISGRACE MYSELF ANYMORE
TODAY I'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL MARIE

SHE MUST BE ASLEEP HER BEDROOM DOOR IS STILL LOCKED.
WHERE IS GRAND-MA?
ELISA-BETH?
YES. NOW AND THEN
IS YOUR SISTER ILL?
OH, COULD YOU ALSO TAKE THE MILK?
YES, SHE'S AWAKE. BUT SHE'S STILL GOT A FEVER.
WHAT ABOUT ELISABETH'S BREAKFAST? I'LL TAKE IT UP TO HER. DOES SHE KNOW I'M HERE?
YES, I DID. HAVE YOU BEEN EATING WELL?
SO YOU ARRIVED LATE YESTERDAY, JUL?
JUL!!
THIS IS ERIC, A FRIEND OF MINE
!!!!!

THIS BOOK I WAS GIVEN AT CHURCH! I SAW YOU IN IT!
IN THE SCENE WITH THE HOLY WATER!
I... I KNOW YOU! I SAW YOU IN MY BOOK!
WHAT BOOK?
I SEE! IT'S A PICTURE OF CHRIST RECEIVING HIS BAPTISM.
SO WHERE AM I?
YOU ARE RIGHT!
AND THIS IS YOU!
I AM TALL!
SHE LOOKS TALL
WAIT! FIRST, THIS ONE IS ME!
LIE BACK DOWN, ELISA-BETH.
AND THIS ONE IS MA...
cough cough cough
cough
AH!
THIS ANGEL LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE JULI!
AND THIS ONE'S JULI!

GOODBYE
GOOD-BYE
GOOD-BYE
NO SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE
WHEN WILL YOU NEXT COME BACK TO VISIT? THIS SUNDAY?
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
GOODBYE
IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MANY SISTERS LIKE HER!
SHE WAS SO CUTE
CAN YOU TAKE IT OFF?
MY RING IS LOOSE
WHAT ?
OH!
TOH!
OH
AHA! BEFORE IT WAS STUCK ON MY FINGER.

YOU'RE BEING NICE TO ME
HM
OTHERWISE THE RING WOULD STILL BE STUCK
BUT THAT'S GOOD IT MEANS YOUR FINGERS ARE MORE SLENDER, EVEN THOUGH THE REST OF YOU IS GROWING...
.....
JULI IS ACTUALLY BLUSHING!
HE'S BLUSHING!
THE NEXT STATION IS OURS

I THOUGHT THE EXACT SAME THING ON THE MORNING I DECIDED TO RETURN HOME I TOOK A TRAIN FROM THIS STATION THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
SUCH DAZZLING SUNLIGHT!
YET NOW IT SEEMS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO
tap
tap
Hi!
OSCAR!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ON THE FIRST TRAIN FROM WIESBADEN!
MY INTUITION MUST BE GOOD! WELCOME BACK!
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, OSCAR!
JULI ? YOU'RE SMILING!

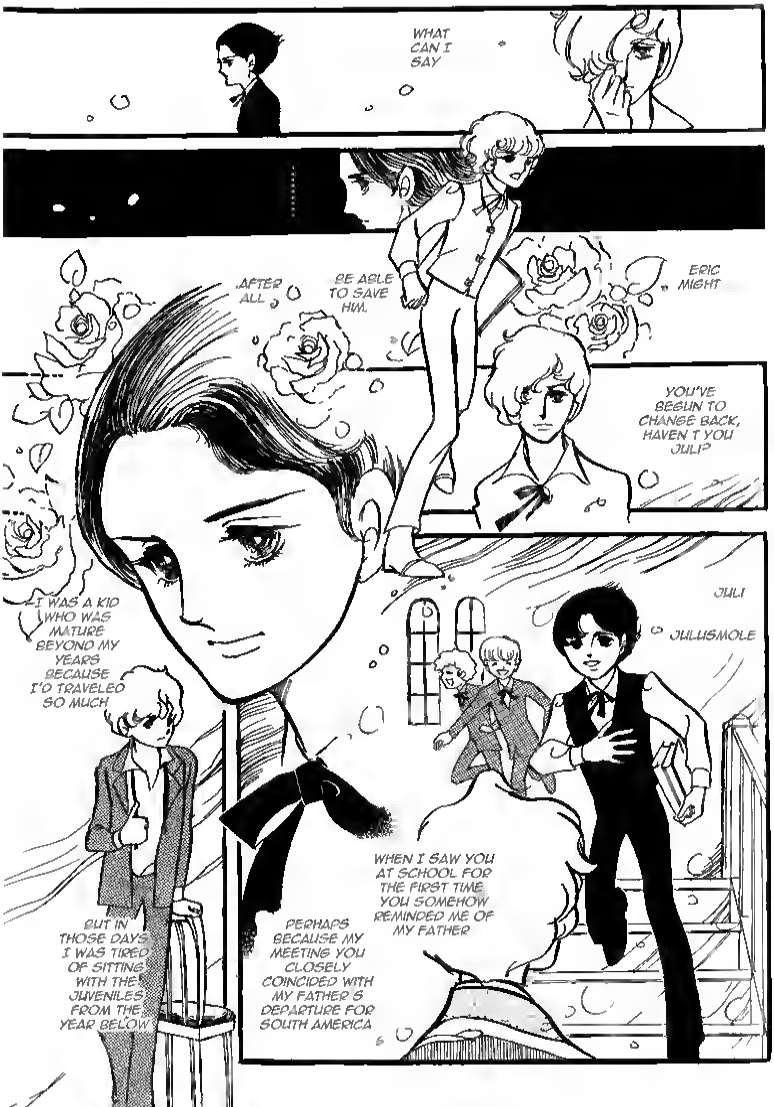
shff
whew
SO YOU HAD TO SIT FOR THREE CLASS TESTS WHILE I WAS AWAY? HOW AWFUL!
YES, AND WE ALL DID SO BADLY WE HAVE TO SIT FOR THEM AGAIN!
YOU CAN SIT FOR THE TESTS WITH US THIS TIME!
SO YOU SPENT THE NIGHT AT JILL'S PLACE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T COME BACK IN TIME?
UH HUH.
ERIC!
HEY, ERIC!
HI!
NICE TO SEE YOU BACK!
WHERE'S ERIC? THE HEADMASTER WANTS TO SEE HIM!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

JULUSMOLE'S A LOT NICER THAN I THOUGHT.
YOU KNOW
OH, IT CAME LOOSE
HEY, ERIC! WHERE'S YOUR RING?
HERBERT, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING AGAINST HIM, DON'T YOU?
I THINK HE'S A FINE FELLOW TOO!
I AGREE! I'VE BEEN SAYING THAT FROM THE START!
Oh Yes!
I FIND JULI A BIT TOO CONCEITED!
UH HUH I'M GLAD HE'S FEELING BETTER NOW
I BET LE BEBE BAWLED HIS EYES OUT BEFORE!
BUT HE REALLY WAS NICE TO ME, HERBERT.
NOT EXACTLY
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT HE DOES A GOOD JOB IN FULFILLING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS HEAD PREFECT
SO WHAT IF HE WAS? WHY DO YOU THINK EVERYONE HAS TO LIKE JULI?!

ERIC, YOU NEED TO USE THE FORMULA TO COME UP WITH THE ANSWER
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S EASY! X EQUALS 3 AND Y EQUALS 33!
I CAN IMAGINE
HOW UPSET LE BEBE MUST HAVE BEEN
WELL IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME ALL ALONG
UNLESS JULI CAN PUT THOMAS BEHIND HIM.
HIS GAZE WILL REMAIN FOCUSED ON ERIC
UH HUH... YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT HIM OSCAR... THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT JULIUSMOLE WERE TRUE...
YES, FOR HE WAS NICE TO ME THE WHOLE TIME EXCEPT FOR THE ONE OCCASION HE SHOUTED AT ME IN GIESSEN STATION...
SO DID YOU CHANGE YOUR OPINION OF JULI DURING THE TRIP?

WE CAME ACROSS A MAN WHO WAS A BIT STRANGE
WAS HE A DRUNKARD?
NO, HE WASN'T.
THAT'S WHERE WE SWITCHED TRAINS
GIESSEN? THAT'S ON THE WAY TO KASSEL, ISN'T IT?
HE HAD A SMUG ATTITUDE AND HE HAD BLOND HAIR, A LONG CHIN AND HE WORE OCTAGONAL GLASSES WITH BLUE LENSES
IT SEEMED AS IF JULI AND THIS MAN KNEW EACH OTHER.
HE GREETED JULI WITH THE WORDS 'LONG TIME NO SEE'
I COULDN'T QUITE CATCH WHAT HE SAID AFTER THAT.
.....
THEY WERE GIVING EACH OTHER HOSTILE LOOKS.
ARE YOU LISTENING? I'VE NOW GOT TWO MEN VYING TO BE MY FATHER - TWO OF THEM! I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I TURN TWENTY-SIX, BECAUSE THEN I'LL BE IN A POSITION WHERE I WON'T NEED EITHER OF THEM ANYMORE!
AH!
HEY, OSCAR!
HEY!
THEY MET SEIFRIET!
SEIFRIET!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HEAD-MASTER?
MY ONLY RELATIVE HAS GONE ALL THE WAY TO SOUTH AMERICA
BUT HOW ARE YOU AN ORPHAN?
YES YES, I HEAR YOU BUT AREN'T YOU BETTER OFF COMPARED TO AN ORPHAN LIKE ME?
YOUR ORIGINAL FATHER WENT TO SOUTH AMERICA, AND SO YOU WERE PLACED WITH THIS OTHER OLD MAN WHO'S A LOT LIKE A FATHER TO YOU... AND THEN—
HE'S YOUR FATHER NOW, ISN'T HE?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO EXPLAINED IT TO ME
WHEN DID I EVER SAY—
AMEN TO THAT
FURTHERMORE YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM! IT'S OBVIOUS ISN'T IT?
YOU MENTIONED IT WAS THE HEADMASTER WHO PROVIDED YOU WITH AN INDEFINITE INTEREST-FREE LOAN
AND THEN?
HE'S VERY OBSERVANT!
WHAT CAN I SAY?
YES, I'D LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
IS IT MEANT TO BE A SECRET, OSCAR? IF SO, I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE


WHAT CAN I SAY
ERIC MIGHT
BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM.
AFTER ALL
YOU'VE BEGUN TO CHANGE BACK, HAVEN'T YOU JULI?
JULI
JULIUSMOLE
I WAS A KID WHO WAS MATURE BEYOND MY YEARS BECAUSE I'D TRAVELED SO MUCH
WHEN I SAW YOU AT SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU SOMEHOW REMINDED ME OF MY FATHER
PERHAPS BECAUSE MY MEETING YOU CLOSELY COINCIDED WITH MY FATHER'S DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH AMERICA
BUT IN THOSE DAYS I WAS TIRED OF SITTING WITH THE JUVENILES FROM THE YEAR BELOW

LATER I THOUGHT OF YOU AS THE VERY EPITOME OF A RATIONAL THINKER.
HMM... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SMART
IN THE END, I REALIZED YOU WERE AN EMOTIONALLY TORTURED SOUL
YOU WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER PUPILS
ALTHOUGH WE HAD JUST MET, AS A PREFECT YOU WERE KIND AND HELPFUL.
YOU HAD A KNACK FOR WORKING WITH FIGURES AND COMING UP WITH NEW IDEAS
NOTHING WAS BEYOND YOU EVERYTHING YOU DID WAS FLAWLESS
BUT ONE DAY YOU DECIDED YOU WOULDN'T BEHAVE WITH SUCH CARELESS ABANDON
BACK WHEN WE SHARED A SIX-PERSON ROOM WE ALL MADE A BIG RUCKUS AND YOU JOINED IN AS WELL
BUT ALL THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHY I SPENT DAY AFTER DAY WITH YOU
MAYBE I AM
HEY JULI! YOU'RE A SHY PERSON AREN'T YOU?
YOU DISLIKED REFLECTING ON PAST REGRETS
YOU NEVER DID ANYTHING THAT WOULD DAMAGE YOUR REPUTATION BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DESPISE YOURSELF LATER FOR IT.
BUT YOUR OUTLOOK ONLY CHANGED A FRACTION
DIDN'T IT?

...MAYBE YOU ARE
JULI GRABBED HIM IN THE NICK OF TIME BUT LOST HIS BALANCE AND TUMBLED DOWN THE STAIRS INSTEAD
A BOY LOST HIS FOOTING WHILE FOOLING AROUND ON THE STAIRS
I RECALL THE TIME
NEVER MIND THAT! I'LL STUDY HERE, AND I'LL SCORE HIGHER THAN YOU IN NEXT WEEK'S PHYSICS TEST!
I DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT ANYONE'S PITY... BESIDES, THE BOY I SAVED MUST BE FEELING BAD ABOUT IT TOO...
YOU CAN'T GO OUT
FOR JULI, BEING INJURED WASN'T A PROBLEM. AS A PREFECT, HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO PUT THE WELFARE OF OTHERS AHEAD OF HIS OWN
WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING, I'LL LIMP MY WAY AROUND.
JULI'S AMAZING! HE GOT TOP MARKS!
HE'S A FAST RUNNER TOO!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED

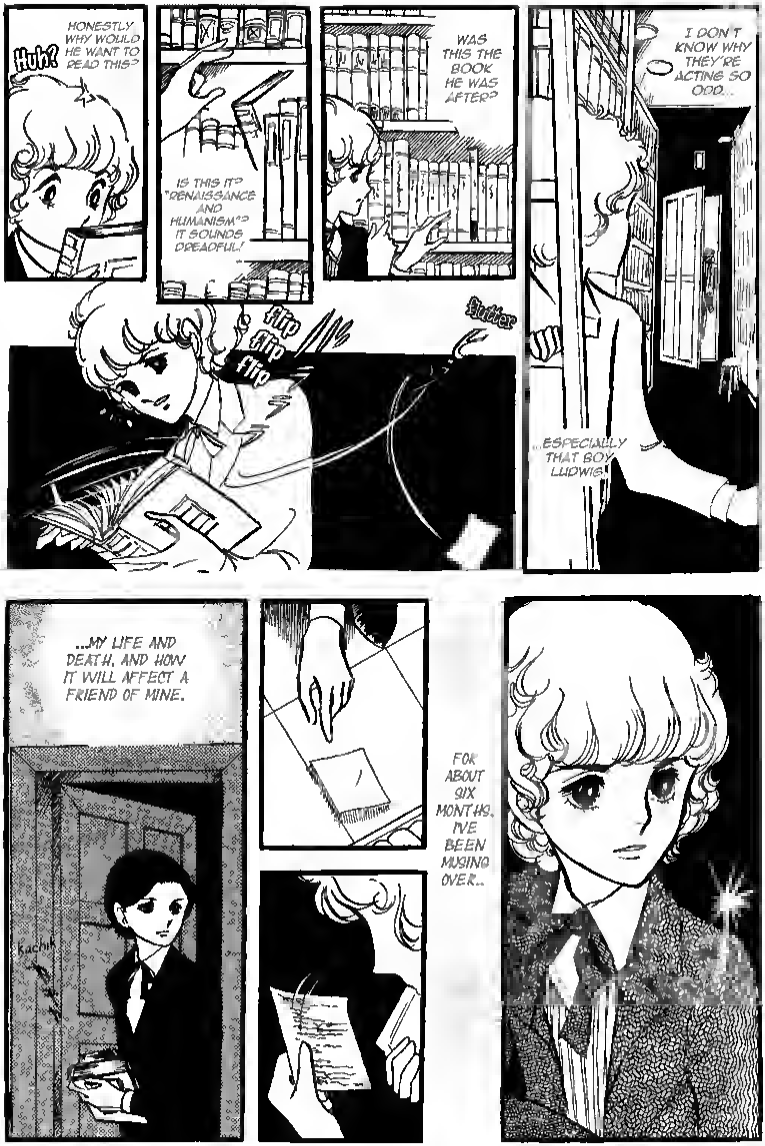
BUT THE WORLD SEEMED MUCH MORE BRIGHTER BACK IN THE OLDEN DAYS
YOU WERE INCLINED TO IDEALIZE THE PEOPLE AND THINGS YOU LOVED
...I BEGAN TO WATCH OVER YOU.
I KNEW WHEN YOU CHANGED
FROM THAT DAY FORTH
BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT MY WISH FOR YOU...
AFTER THE DEATH OF THE ANGEL THOMAS WERNER YOU NO LONGER FELT AS IF YOU COULD LOOK ME IN THE EYE
THANKS TO ERIC
HAS COME TO PASS
NAMELY TO SEE YOU REDISCOVER A BRIGHT AND SHINING FUTURE
!!!!!
HE PERFORMS THE READING SO WELL, DESPITE CLAIMING HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD!
AT THE VERY LEAST YOUR EYES ARE ON HIM.

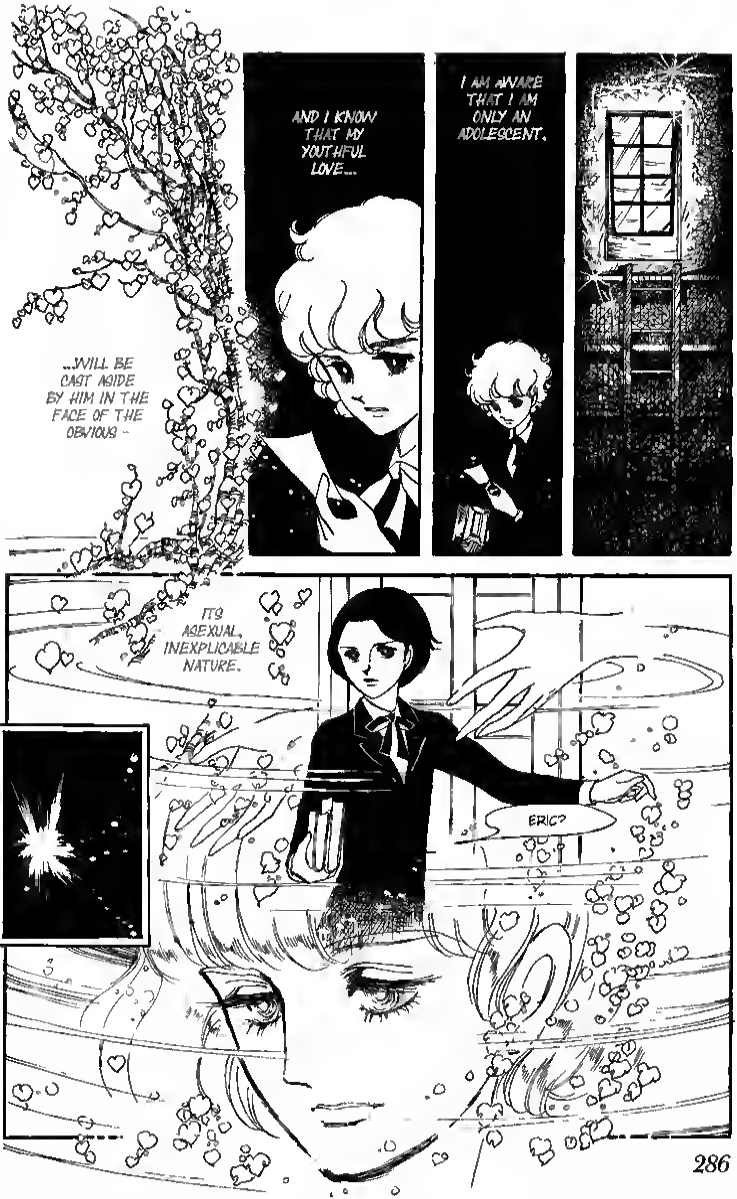
thunk
JULI! YOU LEFT BEHIND THIS BOOK YOU BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY!
ARE YOU AFTER JULI?
THE HEAD PREFECT'S IN THE LIBRARY
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A GAME OF BRIDGE?
I'LL PLAY! I'LL PLAY FOR SURE! I'LL BE BACK SOON, SO KEEP A SPOT FOR ME!
clack
All right!
JULIS

OH! HERE'S THE BOOK YOU BORROWED!
YOU NEED TO RENEW IT!
HEY!
ARE YOU GOING TO BORROW SOMETHING NEW?
UM— BUT WE CAN'T BORROW TODAY, CAN WE?
IT'S FINE I'LL ALTER THE DATE FOR YOU.
WOW! THAT'S UNLIKE YOU, HEAD PREFECT!
I THINK JULI MIGHT BE A GREAT FELLOW AFTER ALL!
NOW THAT I'VE HAD TIME TO THINK IT OVER—
SURELY NOT
I'M GOING TO GET SOME VINYL TAPE
I'LL BE BACK

rustle
Ju
HE'S NOT JUL!!
BUT SOMEHOW SEEING YOUR LIKENESS AT SCHOOL DISTURBS MY PEACE OF MIND A BIT
MARIE THERE'S A STATUE OF MARY IN THE CATHEDRAL THAT REMINDS ME OF YOU,
LUDWIG!
Shove

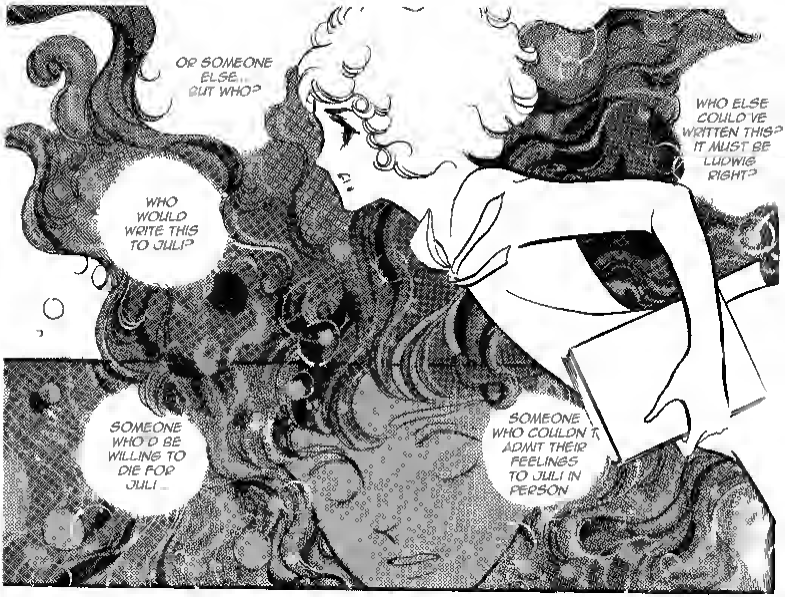
A-ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME?
NOTHING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE? WE CAN'T BORROW BOOKS TODAY, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! JOSE'S LOOKING FOR YOU!
ARE YOU UP THERE, ERIC? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU BOTH LOOK, YOU TWO BETTER LEAVE! JULI'S IN CHARGE AND HE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT WHO ENTERS THIS PLACE!
Let's go!
.....


HONESTLY, WHY WOULD HE WANT TO READ THIS?
Huh?
IS THIS IT? "RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"? IT SOUNDS DREADFUL!
WAS THIS THE BOOK HE WAS AFTER?
I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE ACTING SO ODD...
...ESPECIALLY THAT BOY, LUDWIG.
Flip Flip Flip
Shudder
...MY LIFE AND DEATH, AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE.
Kachik
FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, I'VE BEEN MUSING OVER...


AND I KNOW THAT MY YOUTHFUL LOVE...
...WILL BE CAST ASIDE BY HIM IN THE FACE OF THE OBVIOUS -
I AM AWARE THAT I AM ONLY AN ADOLESCENT.
ITS ASEXUAL, INEXPLICABLE NATURE.
ERIC?

WAS IT MEANT FOR JULI? WAS IT WRITTEN TO JULIUSMOLE?
A PIECE OF POETRY NO, A LOVE LETTER!
WHO HAS SUCH NARROW SLANTED HANDWRITING? THE LETTER WAS UNSIGNED
AND THE FACT THAT I LOVE HIM IS NOT THE ISSUE.
SO THIS IS NOT A TRIVIAL BET I AM MAKING.
HAVE YOU FOUND A BOOK YOU LIKE?
HE MUST LOVE ME IN RETURN.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
HE IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD TO THE WORLD, SO I THINK NOTHING OF MUTILATING MY OWN BODY IN ORDER TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE.-
SUCH LOVING LINES... WITHOUT A DATE OR SIGNATURE
AH
UH HUH"
WHO ON EARTH WROTE THIS? DID LUDWIG WRITE IT... TO JULI?
...IN THIS WAY, I WILL ALWAYS LIVE ON...
...IN HIS EYES.

IS THERE A REASON I'M NOT ALLOWED TO BORROW IT?
WHY NOT?
NO?
"RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"? NO YOU CAN'T BORROW IT
I WON'T FIND IT HARD! I'VE READ ACADEMIC PAPERS BEFORE! MAY I BORROW IT?
NO... JUST THAT IT'S AN ACADEMIC TREATISE, NOT A NOVEL A NOVEL WOULD SUIT YOU BETTER...
VERY WELL... IF YOU INSIST...
LYING QUIETLY BETWEEN THE PAGES OF THIS OBSCURE TOME IS A LOVE LETTER...
I COERCED HIM INTO LENDING THE BOOK TO ME!
...AND FURTHERMORE, IT'S A LETTER TO JULI!
TO JULI
FROM LUDWIG!


OR SOMEONE ELSE... BUT WHO?
WHO WOULD WRITE THIS TO JULI?
WHO ELSE COULD'VE WRITTEN THIS? IT MUST BE LUDWIG RIGHT?
SOMEONE WHO'D BE WILLING TO DIE FOR JULI...
SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T ADMIT THEIR FEELINGS TO JULI IN PERSON

WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?
OH!
H-HI OSCAR!
HEY, ERIC!
shock!
LET ME SEE THAT!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING!

whack
IT'S NOTHING! JUST A BOOK!
THEN SHOW IT TO ME! WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
NO!
ERIC!
STOP HIM! SOMEONE STOP HIM FOR ME!
ARGH!
thud
Wah!
YOU WERE READY FOR HIM. HUH? HOLD HIM DOWN A BIT LONGER FOR ME!
DANKE, BACCHUS!
WHY, HELLO
LONG TIME NO SEE!

JULI LENT IT OUT TO ME!
smash!
SO SEIFRIET BORROWED THIS?
"RENAISSANCE AND HUMANISM"?
Oh my
THEN YOU'RE AIMING TO BE THE NEXT KAESTNER, AREN'T YOU, LE BEBE?
REALLY? IS LE BEBE IN THE MOOD TO DO SOME WRITING? THAT'S THE BOOK SEIFRIET GAST BORROWED LAST YEAR TO WRITE A BRILLIANT ESSAY!
YOU WIN!
WAS A FIENDISHLY CLEVER FELLOW WELL, YOU NEVER KNEW HIM THE WAY I DID
AS I RECALL, SEIFRIET
THAT NAME AGAIN... IT MUST BE FATE
SOMETIMES YOU MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL...
?
...THAT HE WAS EXPELLED SHORTLY AFTER HE WROTE THAT ESSAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING NOWADAYS...
STRUTTING AROUND GIESSEN...
HE BEHAVED SO BADLY...
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS

KAESTNER a reference to Erich Kaestner, a well-known 20th century German writer best known for children's novels blending satire with social commentary

NOW WHY ON EARTH...
SOMEONE HERE
IS IN LOVE WITH JULI
I'M NOT SURE...
ARE YOU LOOKING AROUND FOR SOMEONE, ERIC?
...WAS LE BEBE SO DESPERATE TO RETRIEVE THAT BOOK?
AND EVEN LOVES JULI ENOUGH TO DIE FOR HIM
I... I DO LIKE YOU, YOU KNOW...
SOMEONE HERE WROTE A POEM TO JULI!
...I'D THINK NOTHING OF MUTILATING MY OWN BODY.
BUT YOU... SEEM TO PREFER SOMEONE LIKE ERIC, DON'T YOU?
FOR YOUR SAKE ALONE...
!?

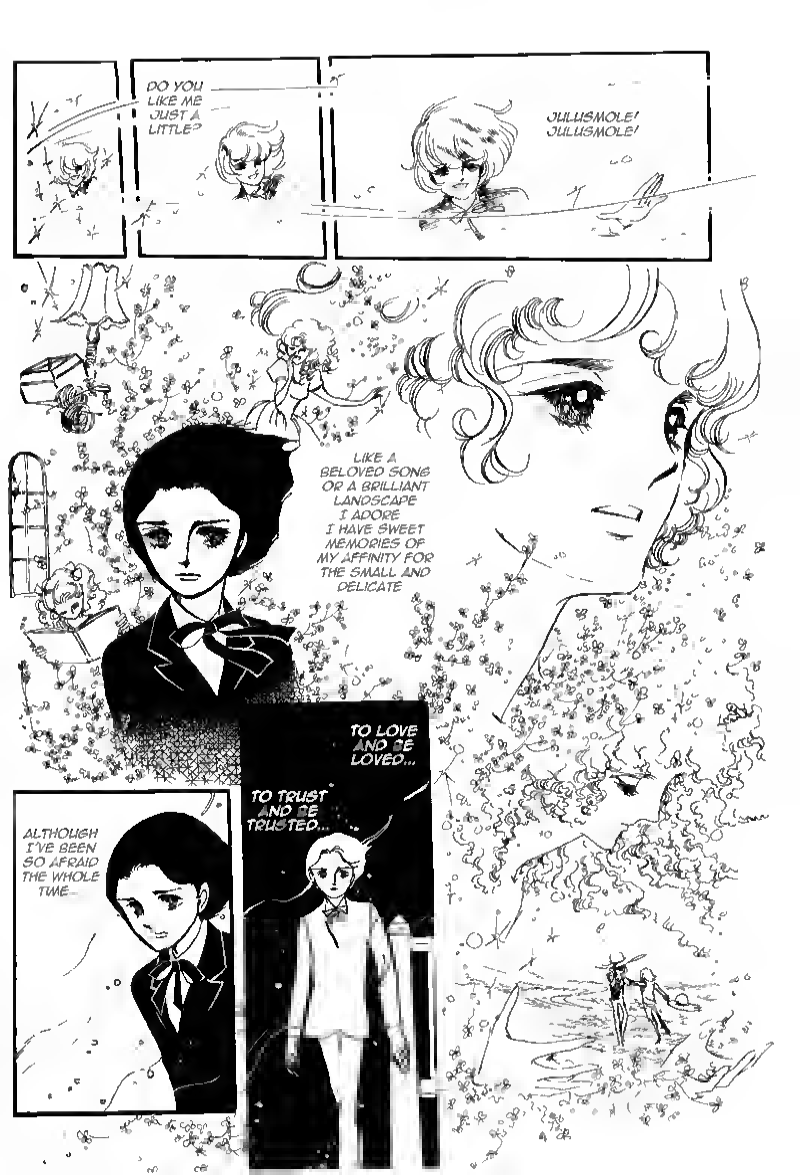
I CAN'T SIMPLY HAND IT TO HIM.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET LOVE LETTER
TOMORROW I'LL RETURN THE BOOK
I'M ALSO DORM HEAD FOR THE TIME BEING!
rattle
WAIT FOR ME! I'LL GO TOO!
clack
TO DO ROLL-CALL BECAUSE IT'S TIME FOR LIGHTS OUT
JULI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
rattle
RIGHT! WHAT ABOUT THE MAIN ENTRANCE DOORS?
THERE ARE EIGHT ROOMS IN TOTAL WITH FIRST TO FOURTH YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS
YES, IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO KNOW THE DUTIES INVOLVED.
THEY'RE KEPT OPEN IN CASE OF A FIRE, SO THE BUILDING CAN BE EVACUATED QUICKLY.

LOOK! IT'S ERIC!
NOTHING AT ALL JILLISMOLE!
VERY WELL THEN GOOD NIGHT
ANYTHING AMISS ?
knock knock
GOOD NIGHT!
VERY WELL GOOD NIGHT
NOTHING WRONG HERE!
GOOD NIGHT!
THIS IS EASY ISN'T IT?
THIS TIME IT'S QUIET
ALL HERE, JILL!
IS EVERYONE HERE?
knock knock
WHAT? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
HAS ....
YOU THINK? THEY WERE PROBABLY HAVING PILLOW FIGHTS JUST BEFORE ROLL-CALL!
FURTHERMORE, EVERYONE'S SO WELL-BEHAVED! THEY HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU!
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THEY LIKED YOU?

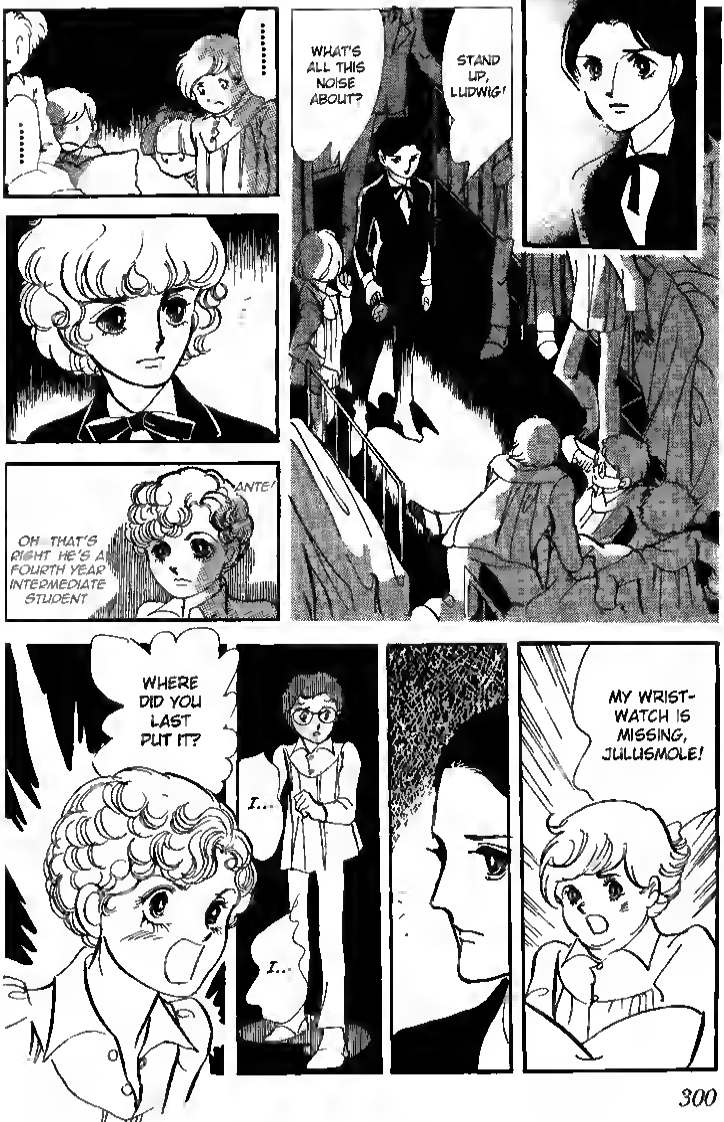
JUL! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE WHO LIKED YOU A LOT?
NOTHING AT ALL
WHAT IF HE LIKED YOU SO MUCH HE'D BE WILLING TO DIE FOR YOU?!
LATER WE'LL GO BACK AND TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND OUR JOB SHALL BE DONE
YOUR QUESTION IS UNRELATED TO ROLL-CALL ISN'T IT?
IF SOMEONE LOVED YOU, WOULD YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO LOVE THEM BACK?
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU?
I WOULDN'T CARE
YOU SEE?
I GUESS NOT, BUT

LET'S SAY THIS FELLOW WHO LIKED ME WAS SOMEONE I COULDN'T STAND. I'M NOT OBLIGED TO RECIPROCATE HIS FEELINGS, AM I?
clack
clack
SO AM I
A FELLOW YOU CAN'T STAND?
NOT REALLY
THEN
DO YOU LIKE ME
...JUST A LITTLE?

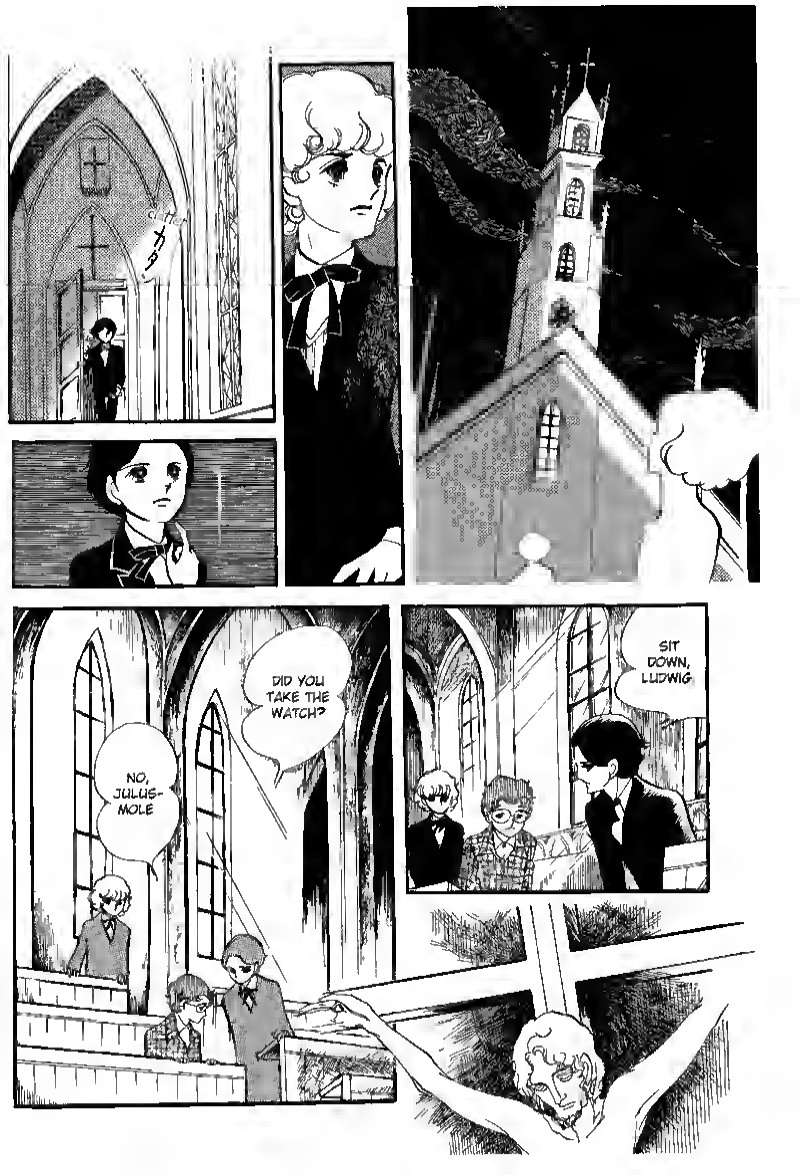
stop
.....
3
step
IF I KEEP WALKING DOWN TOWARDS YOU
I'LL HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO BE GRANTED ANGEL WINGS
WON'T I?


DO YOU LIKE ME JUST A LITTLE?
JULUSMOLE! JULUSMOLE!
LIKE A BELOVED SONG OR A BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE I ADORE I HAVE SWEET MEMORIES OF MY AFFINITY FOR THE SMALL AND DELICATE
TO LOVE AND BE LOVED...
TO TRUST AND BE TRUSTED...
ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID THE WHOLE TIME—

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE
CRASH!
JULI!
LUDWIG ?
flash
WHAT'S GOING ON?
wham


.....
.....
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT?
STAND UP, LUDWIG!
ANTE!
OH THAT'S RIGHT HE'S A FOURTH YEAR INTERMEDIATE STUDENT
WHERE DID YOU LAST PUT IT?
I...
I...
MY WRIST-WATCH IS MISSING, JULIUSMOLE!

Flash
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
Kachik
Flash
COME ALONG, LUDWIG. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE TALK
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF LUDWIG TOOK IT?!
IT'S GONE! IT WAS HERE AND NOW IT'S MISSING!
IT WAS LUDWIG!
YOU'RE ACTING SUSPICIOUS TOO, ANTE! YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT AN ACCOMPLICE?
ANTE, WHY DID YOU STICK UP FOR LUDWIG?
YES! WHY DID YOU?
ALL RIGHT. SO I WAS WRONG TO STICK UP FOR HIM! I HAPPEN TO LIKE OUTSIDERS LIKE HIM. THAT'S ALL! LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHERE ARE WE GOING, JULI?
JULI!
JULIS-MOLE!
ROOM SUPERVISOR, IT'S PAST THE CURFEW FOR LIGHTS OUT. YOU'RE SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE. GO TO BED, ALL OF YOU.

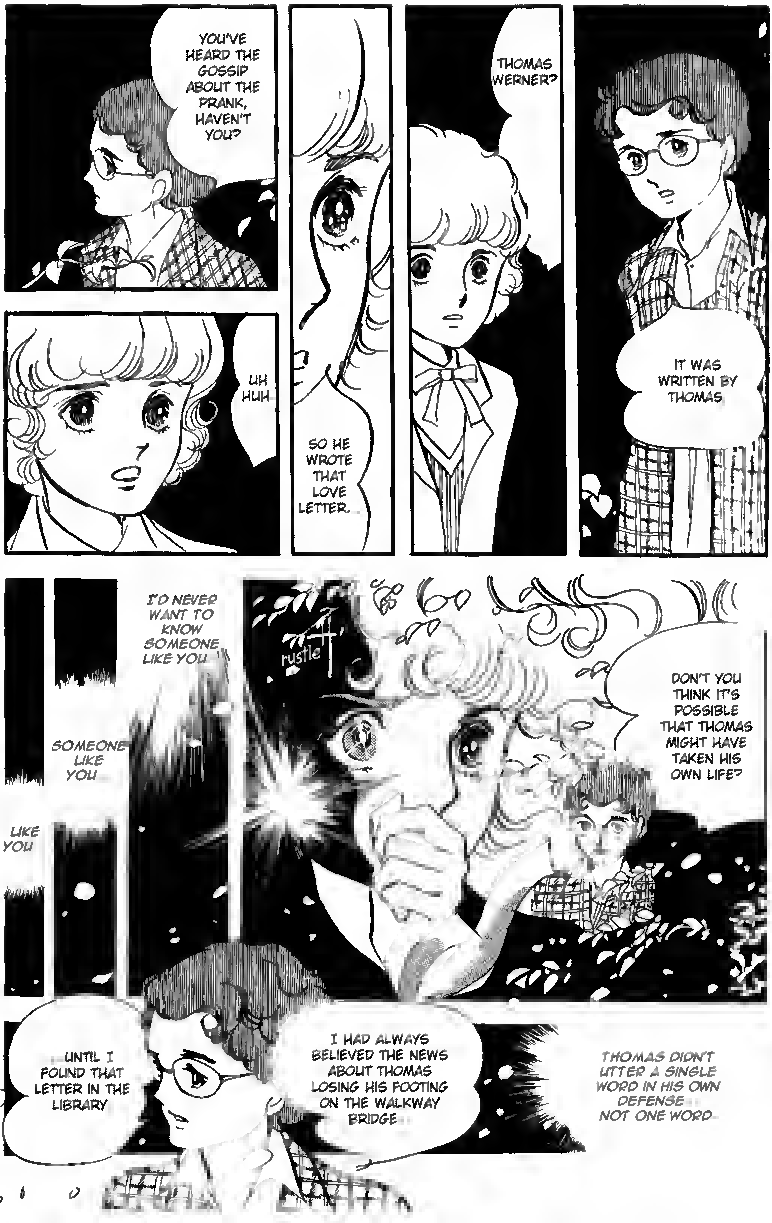

カタ
SIT DOWN, LUDWIG
DID YOU TAKE THE WATCH?
NO, JULIS-MOLE

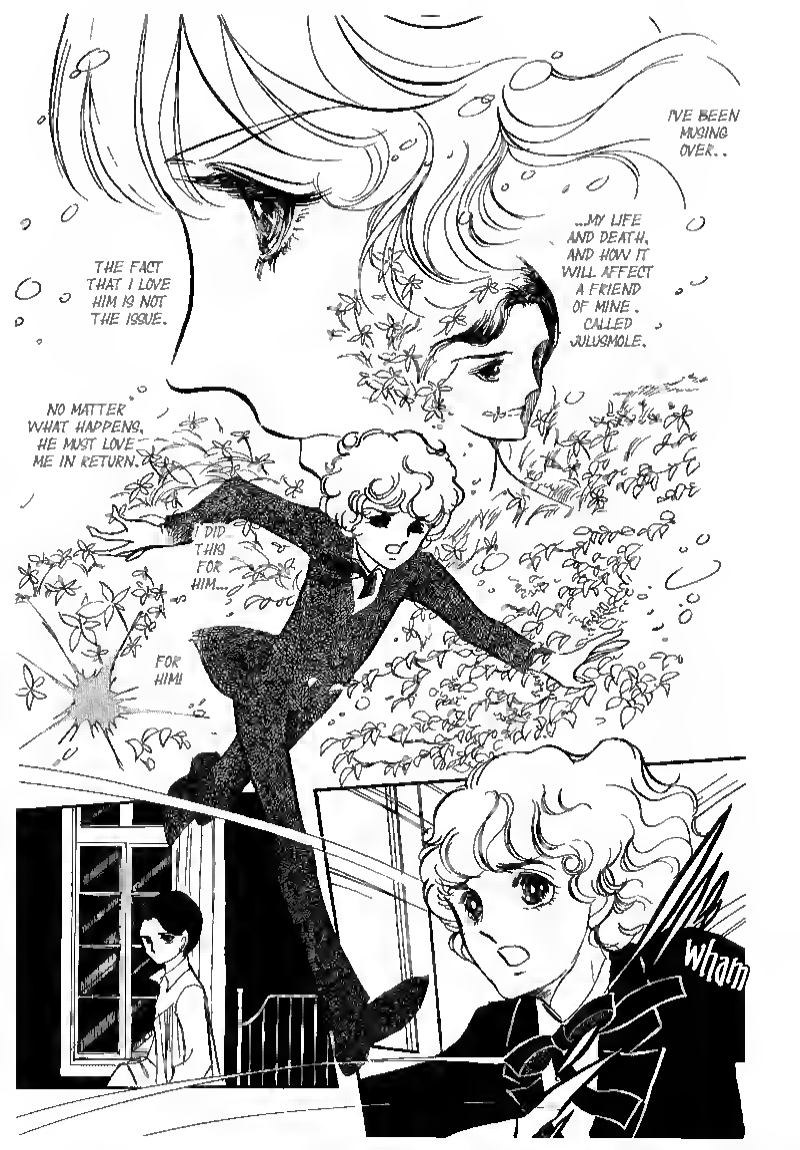
CONFESS ALL, AND GOD WILL GRANT YOU FORGIVENESS
GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER YOU, AND HE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH
HE'S BEING HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR A MISSING WATCH
I'M SURE HE KNOWS HIMSELF THAT HE'S AT FAULT, BUT WHY CONFRONT HIM IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP?
SPEAK THE TRUTH, LUDWIG YOU'RE HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD
BUT... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
THE BOY WHO'S A COMPULSIVE THIEF...
LUDWIG, WE ARE ALL SINNERS
THAT'S WHY WE ALL MUST DO OUR UTMOST TO BE GOOD
HE WON'T SAVE THE SINNERS
THOSE WHO ARE GOOD
GOD ONLY LOVES
IF YOU DO COMMIT SUCH DEEDS, THEN YOU MUST REPENT FOR YOUR SINS.
DON'T YOU AGREE?
...SUCH AS TELLING LIES, STEALING THINGS, AND KILLING PEOPLE.
YOU CANNOT GET AWAY WITH EVIL DEEDS...

LUDWIG!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T HELP COMMITTING EVIL...
CAN WE?
WE HUMANS ARE SINFUL BY NATURE
YOU PUT ON THE AIRS OF AN INNOCENT SAINT AS YOU READ THE BIBLE ALOUD FROM THE PULPIT. I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES YOU SUPERIOR TO A MERE LIAR LIKE ME.
HAND OVER THE WATCH, LUDWIG!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY, YOUR TREATMENT OF THOMAS WERNER.
slam

I'LL BE REPORTING THIS INCIDENT TO HERR HOMANN. RETURN TO YOUR ROOM.
rustle
click
LUDWIG!
I WONDER
LUDWIG!

I GUESS IT WAS YOU WHO TOOK THE BOOK...
WHY DID YOU SAY SUCH THINGS TO JULI? WHAT'S THOMAS GOT TO DO WITH IT? WHAT DID JULI DO TO THOMAS?
LUDWIG!
...IF I'LL BE EXPELLED THIS TIME
I-I WASN'T THINKING I'LL RETURN IT TO THE SHELF. I HAVEN'T SHOWN THE BOOK OR YOUR POEM TO ANYONE...
PUT THE BOOK BACK IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE...
I THINK OF THAT SPOT AS MY OWN PLACE OF WORSHIP...
YOU...
YOU MEAN THE POEM HIDDEN WITHIN THE PAGES?
MY POEM?
...BECAUSE SOMETIMES I GO THERE AND RE-READ THAT POEM.
SO MUCH THAT YOU'D DIE FOR HIM
YOU LIKE JULLISMOLE DON'T YOU?


YOU'VE HEARD THE GOSSIP ABOUT THE PRANK, HAVEN'T YOU?
UH HUH
SO HE WROTE THAT LOVE LETTER.
THOMAS WERNER?
IT WAS WRITTEN BY THOMAS
I'D NEVER WANT TO KNOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU
SOMEONE LIKE YOU
LIKE YOU
rustle
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THOMAS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HIS OWN LIFE?
UNTIL I FOUND THAT LETTER IN THE LIBRARY
I HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED THE NEWS ABOUT THOMAS LOSING HIS FOOTING ON THE WALKWAY BRIDGE
THOMAS DIDN'T UTTER A SINGLE WORD IN HIS OWN DEFENSE NOT ONE WORD


I'VE BEEN MUSING OVER..
...MY LIFE AND DEATH, AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT A FRIEND OF MINE. CALLED JULYSMOLE.
THE FACT THAT I LOVE HIM IS NOT THE ISSUE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, HE MUST LOVE ME IN RETURN.
I DID THIS FOR HIM...
FOR HIM!
Wham

HE KILLED HIMSELF OVER YOU! YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN!
YES, YOU DID! YOU SAID THOSE HARSH WORDS TO HIM TO BEGIN WITH, AND THEN HE...
YOU KNEW THOMAS WERNER KILLED HIMSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
IT WAS ON A MONDAY
W-WHEN DID HE TELL YOU? WAS IT WHEN HE HEARD YOUR REJECTION?
NOW GO TO BED GOOD NIGHT
HE TOLD ME AS MUCH
YOU ARRIVED HERE ON AN OVERCAST AND WINDY DAY, DIDN'T YOU? THAT WAS THE DAY I RIPPED HIS LETTER TO SHREDS
IT WAS THOMAS'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS I RECEIVED A LETTER AT THE SAME I WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT THOMAS'S DEATH

WHY DID YOU RIP IT UP?!
WHY, JULI?!
WHAT LETTER ?
THE DAY I ARRIVED
WHAT WAS IN THAT LETTER? DID HE DECLARE HIS LOVE FOR YOU?
IF HE LOVED ME SO MUCH AS HE CLAIMED, THEN WHY DID HE HAVE TO THROW HIS LIFE AWAY?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?
WHAT'S MORE, HE WAS IDOLIZED WITH LOTS OF ADMIRERS SO WHY···
HE WAS A NICE AND CHARMING PUPIL

IF I WERE IN LOVE I'D NEVER IMPOSE MYSELF ON OTHERS LIKE THAT!
HE LOVED YOU SO MUCH...
...HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE FOR YOU.
YOU SEE HE...
...DID HE HAVE TO DO THAT FOR ME?
IN THE END THOMAS WAS A BOY WHO ONLY LOVED HIMSELF.
ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS ATTRACT MY ATTENTION.
JULIUS-MOLE!
JULIUS-MOLE!
IF I WERE TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND KILL MYSELF IN ATONEMENT, THEN I SUPPOSE HE'D HAVE THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF KNOWING HIS RUSE WAS A SUCCESS.
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT OF A ROMANTIC.
JULIUS-MOLE!
SO WHAT IF HE LOVED ME?
I DON'T BELIEVE HIM!
I LOVE YOU!

THOMAS WERNER...
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING! GOOD DAY!
HOW LAZY AND CARELESS!
WHERE'S ERIC? THAT RASCAL DIDN'T TURN UP TO MASS AGAIN!
OH!
HI ERIC!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU HAD A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.
TIME'S RUNNING OUT! GO AND EAT BREAKFAST!

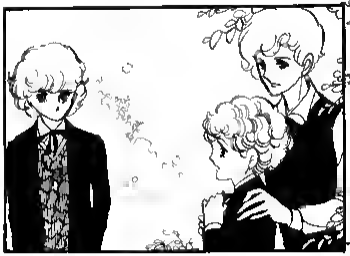
OSCAR!
ERIC!
chatter
chatter
YOU KNEW... YOU KNEW ABOUT THOMAS!
ERIC!
JUMP
WHY DIDN'T JULI BELIEVE THOMAS WHEN THOMAS TOLD HIM HE LIKED HIM? WHY DIDN'T JULI TRUST HIM? WHY WAS THOMAS ALLOWED TO DIE?
ERIC!
SO... SO THAT'S WHY YOU AND JULI ARE CLOSE!
WHY...

HOW DID HE DIE?
ON THE LAST SNOWY DAY BEFORE SPRING, HE JUMPED FROM THE WALKWAY BRIDGE
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT!
IT'S THE CLASS BELL!
thud thud
THEY SUDDENLY LEFT
WHERE HAVE OSCAR AND ERIC GONE?
WELL!
SO JULI HEARD ABOUT IT?
BETWEEN THE PATCHES OF MELTING SNOW DAFFODILS AND CROCUSES BLOSSOMED ALL AT ONCE
WINTER ENDED THAT VERY SAME DAY
BUT... DEEP DOWN HOW WAS HE?
IT WAS THERE IN THE WAY HE WALKED AND TALKED, THE SAME AS USUAL.
ON THE CONTRARY, HE WAS AS DISCIPLINED AND DRIVEN AS EVER IN EVERYTHING HE DID.
YES, AND HE WAS UNMOVED BY THE NEWS.

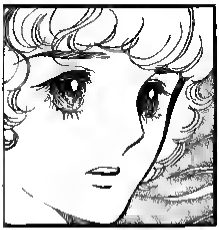
SO IS THAT WHY JULI HATES THOMAS? BECAUSE OF THE WAY THOMAS KILLED HIMSELF... OR WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
.....
CAN YOU TELL HOW SOMEONE ELSE FEELS DEEP DOWN?
DEEP DOWN?
HOW MUCH CAN WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER?
WELL ...
THERE WAS THAT PRANK THOMAS PULLED...
HA! HA!
HUCH!
ANTE!
AH!

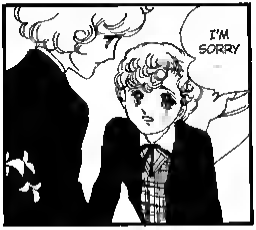
HE WAS LISTENING IN ON US!
WHAT IS IT?
shove
ANTE ROHE!
WAIT, ANTE!
ANTE!
GO AWAY!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! THE BET'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
GO AWAY!
I WAS WRONG! LISTEN TO ME! I WAS WRONG!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
HIS DEATH WASN'T YOUR FAULT, ANTE.

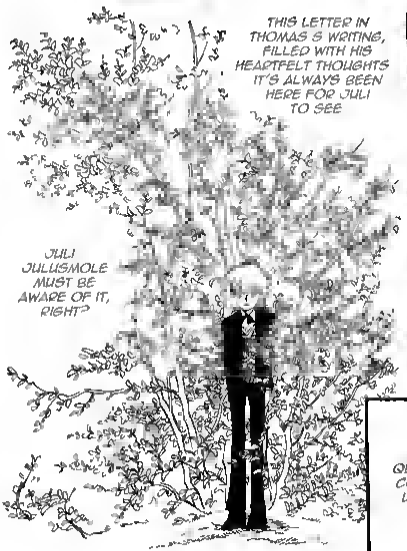
FROM THIS EXACT SPOT HE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO WATCH JULI IN THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM.
TAKE A LOOK
SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN
THOMAS OFTEN CAME OUT HERE BENEATH THIS TREE...
...TO READ BOOKS HE BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY...
.....
HE'D BEEN DOING THIS LONG BEFORE YOU MADE THAT WAGER WITH HIM...
FROM HIS LIBRARY CARD... I NOTICED HOW HE WAS HUNTING DOWN THE BOOKS JULI HAD READ.
HE'D LEFT IT BEHIND IN THE PRIVATE STUDY ROOM.
I HAVE THOMAS'S LIBRARY CARD I HAPPENED TO SEE IT LYING AROUND...
SINCE WHO KNOWS WHEN



COME ON, LET'S GO BACK TO CLASS THE SCHOOL BELL RANG A LONG TIME AGO

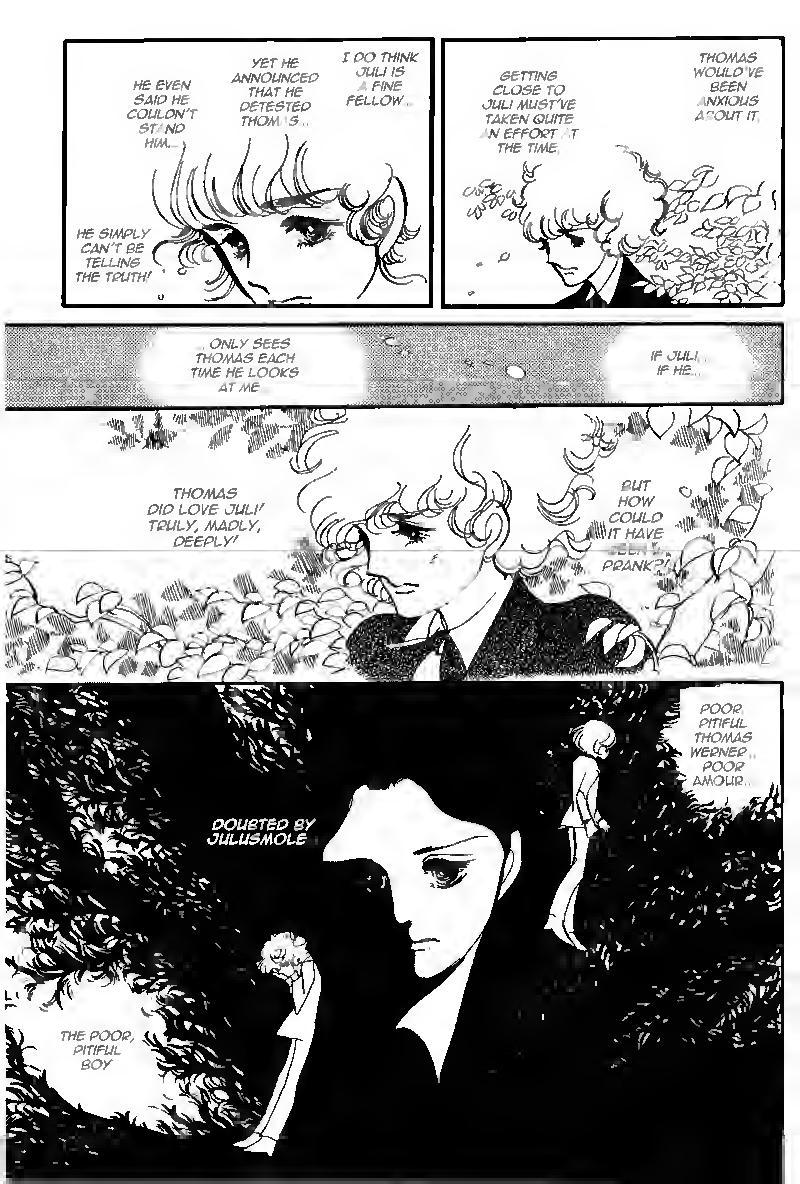



I'M SORRY


THIS LETTER IN THOMAS'S WRITING, FILLED WITH HIS HEARTFELT THOUGHTS IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERE FOR JULI TO SEE
JULI JULIUSMOLE MUST BE AWARE OF IT, RIGHT?

A FORGOTEN LETTER TRAPPED WITHIN THE PAGES OF A BORROWED BOOK...

WHY DID HE APOLOGIZE TO ME?
OR WAS HE APOLOGIZING TO THOMAS?
THAT STOOD QUIETLY ON THE CORNER SHELF UNTIL LUDWIG MANAGED TO FIND IT


HE EVEN SAID HE COULDN'T STAND HIM...
YET HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE DETESTED THOMAS...
I DO THINK JULI IS A FINE FELLOW...
HE SIMPLY CAN'T BE TELLING THE TRUTH!
GETTING CLOSE TO JULI MUST'VE TAKEN QUITE AN EFFORT AT THE TIME.
THOMAS WOULD'VE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT IT.
...ONLY SEES THOMAS EACH TIME HE LOOKS AT ME...
IF JULI... IF HE...
THOMAS DID LOVE JULI! TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY!
BUT HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN A PRANK?!
DOUBTED BY JULIUSMOLE
THE POOR, PITIFUL BOY
POOR, PITIFUL THOMAS WERNER... POOR AMOUR...

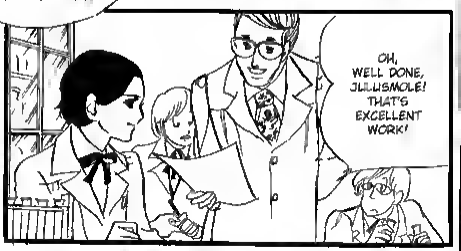
crackle
OH!
TAKE CARE, HERBERT YOU MUSTN'T BE CARELESS OR ELSE YOU'LL HAVE AN ACCIDENT
OOPS!
WATCH OUT, ERIC! JULI WARNED US TO TAKE CARE A MOMENT AGO!
crack
I WAS BEING CARE-FUL!
BE MORE CARE-FUL
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH JULI AGAIN?
SO YOU THINK I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN THE WRONG TO START WITH, DO YOU, YOU FIEND?
JULLUSMOLE IS A CRUEL... HEARTLESS . WRETCHED SCOUNDREL!

ALL RIGHT! FINISH UP IN TEN MINUTES! IT'S MEANT TO BE A SIMPLE EXPERIMENT!
Clap!
chatter
chatter

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT... THIS SUITS ME JUST FINE...

THEN YOU'VE MESSED IT UP!
THAT CAN'T BE!
THE TEMPERATURE DROPS WHEN IT DISSOLVES HERR HOMANN!
I EXPECT A TWO-PAGE REPORT WITH AN ATTACHED GRAPH BY THE END OF TODAY!

ERIC'S WORDS TOOK ME BACK TO LAST NIGHT FOR A MOMENT
"GOD ONLY LOVES THOSE WHO ARE GOOD"
YOU'RE RIGHT, LUDWIG YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE AN ANGEL, THOMAS SO DON'T TELL ME YOU LOVE ME JUST ASCEND UP TO HEAVEN ONCE AND FOR ALL


OH, WELL DONE, JULLISMOLE! THAT'S EXCELLENT WORK!

crack

YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH!
ERIC FRUEHLING! WERE YOU TRYING TO WRECK THE THERMOMETER ON PURPOSE?!

THEN DON'T DO THAT YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE
NOT REALLY NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...
FLIP FLIP
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, OSCAR?
WHAT?
slam
!?
IGNORE
IT'S ME
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME, OSCAR?
snap
click

I KNEW YOU WERE FOND OF THOMAS AND I THOUGHT OSCAR WOULD NEVER NOTICE ME AS LONG AS YOU WERE AROUND
ALTHOUGH I CRIED WHEN THOMAS DIED, I NEVER LIKED HIM THAT MUCH
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS...
...YOU DON'T KNOW.
UMM... EXCUSE ME JULI
I DIDN'T MISLEAD YOU OVER THE PRANK, BUT
HEAR ME OUT!
WON'T YOU MOVE OUT OF MY WAY, ANTE?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED
I FOR.

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID NOTHING AT ALL... TO ME OF ALL PEOPLE!
JULI ?!
HOW DO I LOOK TO YOU?! AFTER ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU HONESTLY THINK.
JULI
I WONDER IF ANYONE WOULD FORGIVE ME.
I HONESTLY WONDER IF I COULD ASK FORGIVENESS OF ANYONE

squeak
キィー
LIEBE,
LOVE...
HUH
bang
bang
bang
bang
Wipe
ササッ

ERIC!
clatter
OUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ERIC?!
IT'LL BE WASHED AWAY IN THE SHOWER!
THE FLOOR IS STAINED WITH BLOOD
DID YOU CUT YOURSELF? HERE, LET ME SEE
I'M FINE! I'LL VISIT THE INFIRMARY!
I'LL CLEAN IT UP LATER!

YOU'VE LOST HIM. HE'S SLIPPED THROUGH YOUR FINGERS ONCE MORE
JULUSMOLE JULUSMOLE!
IT'S BLATANTLY OBVIOUS THIS TIME BLATANTLY OBVIOUS
Slam
YOU'RE INSANE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THAT INJURY OF YOURS, JULI SZYD
ARE YOU VISITING THIS BOY OUT OF LOVE? HE'S NOT EVEN YOUR SON!
I'M FINE
THAT DOSE SHOULD BE ENOUGH. DOES IT HURT?
NO
I'M CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN MARIE'S WILL...
.....

WHY NOT? YOU WON'T BE GRANTED LEAVE TO GO OUT THIS WEEKEND!
HEY, JULI!
I DIDN'T DO ANY OF IT
BUT LISTEN ERIC! DID YOU FINISH OFF THIS WEEK'S HOMEWORK?
SOMEONE DIDN'T TURN UP TO PREPARE THE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENT
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ME
AHEM! YES!
HER-BERT?
I'M GUESSING HE'LL GIVE UP IN ANOTHER WEEK!
VIOLIN! HE STARTED TAKING VIOLIN LESSONS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S BEEN BUSY DOING LATELY?
I SAY THREE DAYS!

COME ON!
THE OTHER DAY I NOTICED A BOTTLE OF MEDICINAL ALCOHOL WAS NEARLY EMPTY WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? DON'T TELL ME YOU DRANK IT ALL?
I'M NOT THAT PLEASED ABOUT HAVING YOU AS A LAB ASSISTANT
WHY NOT?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAND BEING NEAR JULI?
ERIC LATELY YOU SEEM TO BE AWFULLY KEEN TO AVOID JULI
THAT'S THE WINDOW TO THE CHEMISTRY LAB...
I DON'T HAVE A REASON TO HATE JULI EXCEPT...
Ugh!
Wah!?
I DON'T HATE JULI
Arch
THE LAB WHERE JULI'S WORKING
WHACK
WAH! ERIC!

JULI!
CRASH
BAM
ARGH!
HSSA
FLUSH YOUR EYES WITH WATER!
Splish
YOU SHOULD VISIT THE INFIRMARY
I'M FINE, THANKS
WHO'S THE FELLOW WHO KICKED THE BALL IN HERE? WHERE IS HE?
SO DID OSCAR MAKE YOU RINSE YOUR EYES OUT WITH WATER? THAT'S THE BEST TREATMENT.
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.

Phew!
HOWEVER, I GUESS IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY MORE OINTMENT TO YOUR BACK. COULD YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT?
EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS STUNNED BY THE ACCIDENT.
I KEPT TELLING THEM IT WAS NOTHING SERIOUS.
AH YES, IT WASN'T THAT SERIOUS
I'M SO RELIEVED
HIS INJURY DOES APPEAR TO BE NOTHING SERIOUS
THERE ARE MANY TIMES WE NEED TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US, JULIUSMOLE.
AND THERE ARE MANY TIMES WE NEED TO OPEN OURSELVES UP TO NEW EXPERIENCES.
HIS BACK IS COVERED WITH SCARS!

.....
WHY, YOU HAVE A FRIEND RIGHT HERE WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. HE'S COME TO ESCORT YOU BACK, JULIUSMOLE
creak
SUCH AS BEFRIENDING OTHERS AND GAINING THEIR TRUST...
I'LL BEFRIEND HIM AND GAIN HIS TRUST
VERY WELL
YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, HERR ARTUR
I-I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, JUL!!

I'M APOLOGIZING FOR ONCE! THIS ACCIDENT WAS MY FAULT!
WHY SHOULDN'T I?! BUT I FEEL SO AWFUL AROUT EVERYTHING!
EVEN SO—
YOU SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE FEELING GUILTY!
—I DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU
YOU LIVE IN A CAREFREE WORLD THAT'S BATHED IN LIGHT
JUST NOW—
YOU DON'T KNOW YOU HAVE NO IDEA AT ALL—
WHY ON EARTH DO YOU FEEL YOU MUST APOLOGIZE TO ME FOR EVERYTHING? I NEVER ASKED YOU TO DO SO, DID I?
JUST NOW YOU SAW IT— YOU SAW WHAT'S LEFT OF MY WINGS THE WINGS THAT WERE TORN FROM ME

WHAT'S MORE HE WAS AIMING THE WRONG WAY!
YES, IT WAS ME
RIGHT, GIVE ME THE VIOLIN BOW! ERIC, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO KICKED THE BALL INTO THE CHEMISTRY LAB?
SCREECH
OH, IT'S ERIC!
HI!
HOLD OUT YOUR RIGHT HAND!
smack
pounce
HOLD OUT YOUR HAND AGAIN!
THAT ACCIDENT IN THE CHEMISTRY LAB MIGHT HAVE HAD DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES!
DON'T BE A CRYBABY! I'M JUST ENFORCING THE SCHOOL RULES!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
OWW! ARGH!
whack whack whack
EEK!
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
HOLD HIM DOWN!

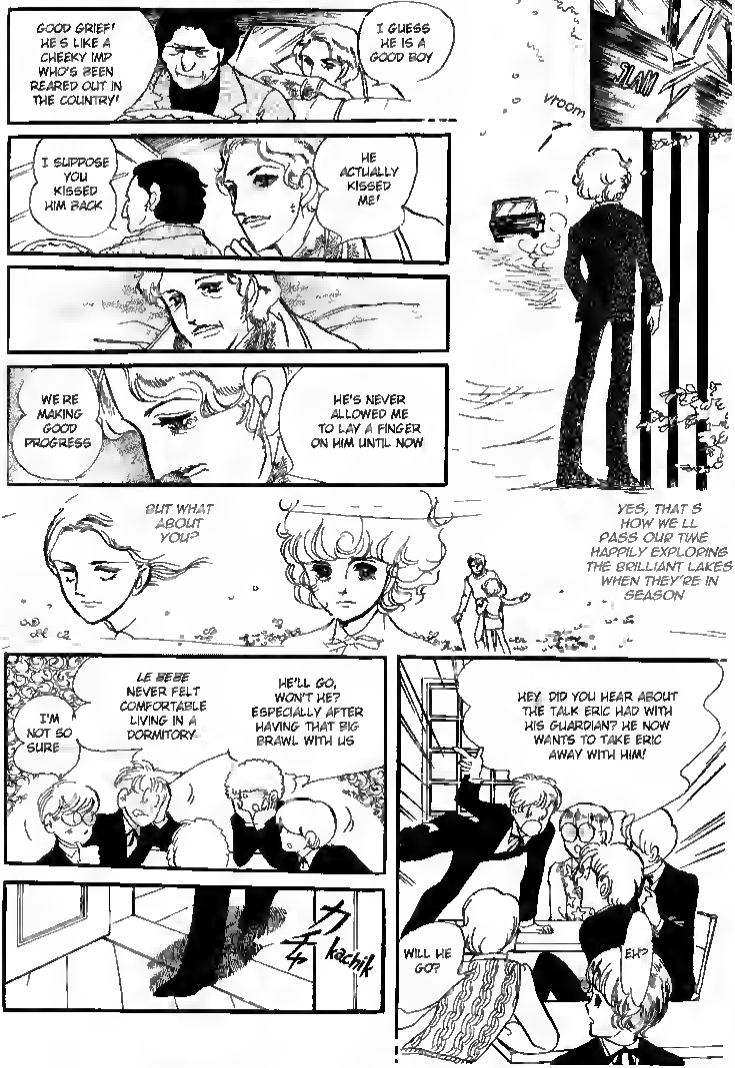
HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STAND IN A LINE AS PUNISHMENT FOR A CLASSROOM BRAWL.
ERIC FRUEHLING!
THE STUDENT YOU WISH TO SEE IS STANDING OUTSIDE THIS DOOR
I UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, HERR MAX DODD
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU FILTHY SCUM!
HEY, ERIC!
ERIC!
SOMEONE'S CALLING YOU, ERIC
I'VE BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM PARIS BY CAR— HE'S WAITING AT THE REAR GATE TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN PERSON!
I AM A FRIEND AND PERSONAL PHYSICIAN TO JULI SZYD SCHWARTZ
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DARE YOU CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
ARE YOU ERIC?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO PARIS WITH MARIE REMEMBER?
BEFORE THE ACCIDENT...
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP YOUNG MAN
.....
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO COME OUT SO I DID. YOU OLD QUACK! COULD I SPEAK TO HIM IN PRIVATE INSIDE THE CAR?
I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO COME OUT OF THE CAR!
SHE WANTED YOU TO STAY WITH US BY LAKE BODEN
ONCE WE REACHED PARIS, SHE WAS GOING TO WRITE YOU A LETTER AND CALL YOU AT SCHOOL
SHE SPOKE ONLY OF YOU DURING THE JOURNEY
STAY WITH YOU?

IT'S GONE FOR GOOD
LMM... HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FOOT OR IS IT HIDDEN?
I CAN WALK
ARE YOU ABLE TO WALK?
SHALL WE GO FOR A SHORT WALK? THAT HILL SEEMS NICE, AND I DISLIKE THE STENCH OF EXHAUST FUMES
I CONTACTED MY FRIEND IN BODEN BECAUSE THE PIG-HEADED SURGEON IN PARIS WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO BE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL
WELL, THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO ARRIVE HERE
I ENDED UP IN A HOSPITAL WITHOUT MAKING IT TO PARIS IT WAS THERE THAT I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HERR KIMBURG HE'S YOUR LAWYER, ISN'T HE?
YES, I DO DO YOU MIND?
SO YOU... YOU WANT TO TAKE CARE OF ME?
FROM WHAT HERR KIMBURG WROTE, IT SEEMS YOUR NATURAL FATHER, HERR BRAUN HAS AGREED TO TAKE OVER YOUR CARE IN FACT, HE IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO SO
I MAY BE YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN FOR NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ODDS OF THE COURT DECIDING IN MY FAVOR ARE NEXT TO NONE
WHY THE ODDS OF GAINING CUSTODY OF YOU OF COURSE!
THE ODDS OF WHAT?

WE BOTH RECALL HOW BEAUTIFUL MARIE WAS WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE THAT WILL GIVE US PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT, DON'T YOU THINK?
SO WHY DON'T WE SPEND OUR LIVES TOGETHER?
INDEED. I LOVED MARIE VERY MUCH AND I KNOW YOU LOVED MARIE VERY MUCH TOO
BUT WHY? YOU LOVED MARIE NOT ME
I SUPPOSE I'LL NEVER BE A GOOD FENCING OPPONENT FOR YOU BUT I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO PAINT
I STILL USE CRUTCHES, BUT WITH MY PROSTHETIC LEG ATTACHED I'LL BE ABLE TO WALK AND RUN AND EVEN GO SWIMMING
YOU'LL PUT MARIE BEHIND YOU I'M SURE YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AGAIN
WHY WOULD YOU BE A NUISANCE?
I'LL BE A NUISANCE TO YOU
I DON'T WANT HERR BRAUN TO TAKE CUSTODY OF YOU BECAUSE THAT MEANS I'LL LOSE YOU TOO
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT IF I DO PROVE TO BE SO FICKLE IN MY AFFECTIONS THEN I'LL NOW BEFORE YOU AND SEEK YOUR PARDON

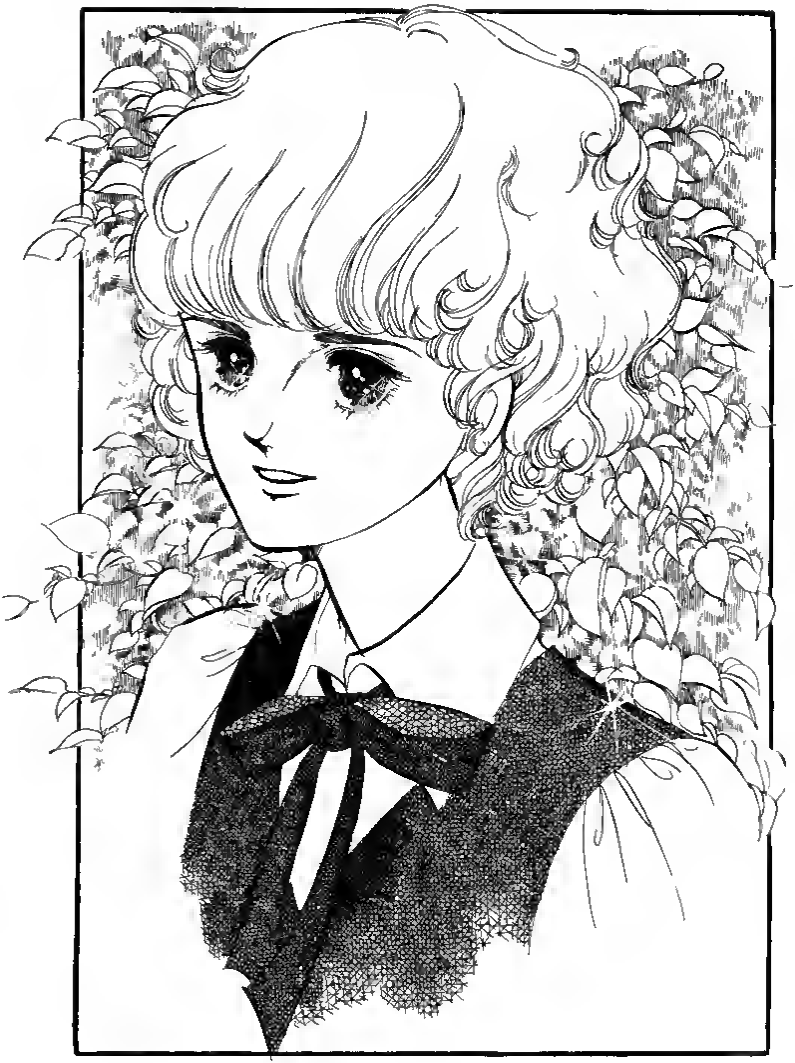
SO WON'T YOU COME AWAY WITH ME OR DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T STAY AT SCHOOL? THERE'S A BOY I KNOW HERE I WANT TO GAIN HIS TRUST
THEN I'LL MAKE SURE I GET PLENTY OF WALKING PRACTICE BEFORE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

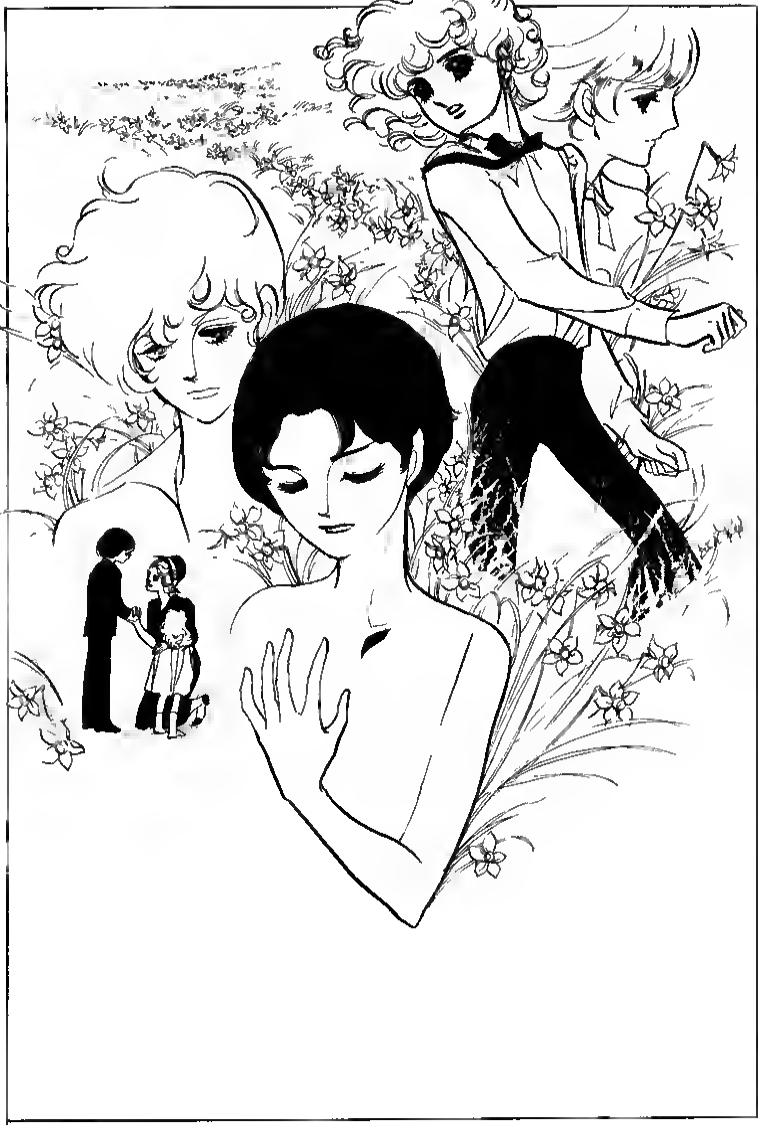

GOOD GRIEF! HE'S LIKE A CHEEKY IMP WHO'S BEEN REARED OUT IN THE COUNTRY!
I GUESS HE IS A GOOD BOY
I SUPPOSE YOU KISSED HIM BACK
HE ACTUALLY KISSED ME!
WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS
HE'S NEVER ALLOWED ME TO LAY A FINGER ON HIM UNTIL NOW
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YES, THAT'S HOW WE'LL PASS OUR TIME HAPPILY EXPLODING THE BRILLIANT LAKES WHEN THEY'RE IN SEASON
I'M NOT SO SURE
LE BEBE NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE LIVING IN A DORMITORY
HE'LL GO, WON'T HE? ESPECIALLY AFTER HAVING THAT BIG BRAWL WITH HIS
kachik
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TALK ERIC HAD WITH HIS GUARDIAN? HE NOW WANTS TO TAKE ERIC AWAY WITH HIM!
WILL HE GO?
EH?

ARE YOU PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR BODEN?
RUSTLE
I'M GOING TO TAKE MY STUDIES A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY, THAT'S ALL
WHO, ME?
tap
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE... BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE
HE CARES ABOUT ME HE'S GOING BACK HOME TO REST...
IS YOUR GUARDIAN UPSET WITH YOU?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME, I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU ANYMORE. I LIKE YOU AND THAT'S WHY I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE...

Bible

トーマの心臓 II





トーマの心臓 1

萩尾望都

トーマの心臓 2

萩尾望都